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EPWORTH LEAGUE HANDBOOK

1913



PRICE, TEN CENTS

NASHVILLE, TENN.
DALLAS, TEX.; RICHMOND, VA.
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FOREWORD.

THIS little book is given to our pastors and Epworth League workers with the earnest wish that it may help to make the work of the League plain. The matter contained in the HANDBOOK has been carefully collected from various sources, and the result represents several years of experimentation and development. This book is the offering of those who believe that the League is of God, and that it belongs to the great spiritual forces of the future, as well as recognizing in it a present power for good.

Yours for the work,

NASHVILLE, TENN.

FITZGERALD SALE PARKER,
J. MARVIN CULBRETH,
ADA TRAWICK.

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Epworth League Handbook.

CHAPTER I.

Young People's Religious Organizations.

HISTORICAL.

THE first young people's societies of a religious character came into existence at a time when the young life of the Church was scarcely estimated as of any value at all. The Church had no work which it thought suitable to place in youthful hands. Missionary societies and auxiliaries were for grown people. The Sunday school was succeeding only indifferently as a mixed gathering where questions and answers on Bible topics were exchanged to very insufficient purpose. The idea of training for Christian work and enlistment in helpful service for any considerable number of professed Christians had not gained extensive consideration.

It is recorded that following the Napoleonic wars in Germany groups of young men in several parishes formed associations "for prayer, for Bible study, and for mutual help in the Christian life."

Later by many years, in 1844, Sir George Williams started the Young Men's Christian Association. The modern development of this world-wide organization is one of the marvelous manifestations of the power of Christianity.

It was in 1881 that the young people's society was or-

ganized which became a progenitor of the larger movement. Rev. Francis E. Clark was then the pastor of a Congregational Church in Portland, Me. He formed the young people of his congregation into a *Society of Christian Endeavor*, with a constitution which became the model of all subsequent organizations of similar character. The Baptist Young People's Union and our own Epworth League are examples of the extension of this idea into the field of denominational limitations.

Christian Endeavor to-day extends to every nook and corner of the world and appears among all types and classes of people. The number of societies is 79,077, with a membership of 3,953,850. A million members have recently been added to the enlistment.

In the Canadian Methodist Church there are 2,016 Epworth League Chapters and 82,096 members. The Methodist Episcopal Church reports a gain of 57,000 members. In the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, the number of Chapters is 3,906, and there are 137,137 members. Both Canadian Methodism and the Methodist Episcopal Church have experienced growth in the strength of the young people's organizations. Methodism in the South has enjoyed an increase in efficiency, but has lost slightly in membership.

THE NATURE OF YOUNG PEOPLE'S RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS.

1. Put the 's in italics. The sign of the possessive case is of striking importance here. The Christian Endeavor, the Baptist Young People's Union, and the Epworth League are significant just because *they belong to the young people*. They are *of* the young people and *by* the young people. It would not be accurate to employ the rest of Lincoln's phrase and say that they are

for the young people, because these societies very emphatically have never existed for their own members, but for *others*. The sense of proprietorship has been the crystallizing element in the Young People's Movement.

2. Young people's societies are composed of members of both sexes, and grading according to age is not rigidly demanded. Thereby the most natural associations of a normal community are cultivated. Youths and maidens grow accustomed to working together in common religious enterprises. They also learn to think of friendship in connection with the highest and most serious concerns of life. There is provided an effective check to the growth of selfish and hurtful caste or group spirit. A healthful atmosphere of trustful comradeship promotes the development of the worthiest social graces.

3. Young people's societies are further distinguished by the fact of their unconventional enthusiasm. A wide difference may be observed, for example, between the program of an Epworth League Conference and that of a Sunday school convention. The latter is distinctively didactic, while the former is distinctively experiential, democratic, and inspirational. So it is with the plan of work of the two organizations. An adult society requires youth to harness its enthusiasm to a policy fixed by those who may not have the peculiar interests of young people at heart. Christian Endeavor or the Epworth League preaches a crusade and leaves it to the young people to take the initiative in launching and steering the enterprise. It is a significant fact that many of the most important and far-reaching movements in the present program of the Church were either actually proposed or first effectively espoused by the young people's religious organizations.

THE FUTURE OF YOUNG PEOPLE'S RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS.

"If thirty years ago the Sunday school had possessed the conception of its mission which it holds to-day, there would have been no Society of Christian Endeavor." This is the thought, if not the exact language, of a pastor who has been prominent in successful work with young people. Are there any facts to justify the insinuation that young people's religious organizations will soon disappear or at least suffer very radical change of form? There follow certain arguments which are urged by some to establish an affirmative answer:

1. It is a fact that *the whole spirit of Church work has been conformed more exactly with the ideals of youth* than was the case even two decades ago. Young people have proved their value in the complex machinery of the kingdom. To-day they are intrusted with responsibilities which used to be the exclusive monopolies of the fathers and mothers. In every department of organization and in every highway of usefulness they are accepted as coworkers and leaders.

2. It is a fact that the Sunday school has already included in its machinery some of the parts which appeared first exclusively in the young people's religious societies. For example, it is following the Christian Endeavor and Epworth League in grading its courses and introducing committees into classes which have the same functions to perform as the corresponding committees in the young people's organizations. How *adequately* the Sunday school may be able to provide for the *expression* of faith in practice is this very day being sharply tested.

3. The practical enlargement of the ideal of the Church to include the educational function in its several depart-

ments of work has caused embarrassing and useless overlapping of activities. There is actual conflict, it is observed, between the Epworth League on the one hand and the missionary societies on the other, notably in the case of the Junior League and the juvenile missionary societies. There is a demand for more perfect correlation and coöperation of these several parts of the administrative machinery of the Church; but the aim, the purpose, and the spirit of these societies will abide by whatever method it may be thought wise to conserve them.

THE EPWORTH LEAGUE.

Origin.

In 1889 a number of young people's societies previously existing in the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, were organized into a coöperative union with a distinct constitution and plan of work. This movement was widespread, though not of great strength numerically, and it was non-denominational.

In 1890 the Church Conference of Trinity Church, Los Angeles, Cal., set in motion a resolution providing for a distinctive department of young people's work in the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. On this memorial the General Conference, meeting that year in St. Louis, Mo., authorized the formation of Leagues for the "promotion of piety and loyalty to our Church among the young people, their education in the Bible and Christian literature, and in missionary work of the Church, and their encouragement in works of grace and charity."

The Leagues were at first placed under the control of the Sunday School Board. Later on certain adaptations and modifications conformed the Southern League to the League of the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Meth-

odist Church of Canada. It had already been decided that the Southern League should take the common name of Epworth.

In 1894 the General Conference erected the League into a separate connectional department. Rev. S. A. Steel, D.D., was elected Secretary and Editor of the *Epworth Era*. In 1898 he was succeeded by Rev. H. M. Du Bose, D.D., who in turn was succeeded in May, 1910, by Dr. Fitzgerald Sale Parker, the present General Secretary.

Purpose.

The purpose of the Epworth League, as set forth in the original order for its incorporation into the Church, and as subsequently embodied in the book of Discipline, is: "The promotion of piety and loyalty to our Church among the young people, their education in Church history, and their encouragement in works of grace and charity." The sum of all this is consecration, preparation, and service. The League is set to teach and illustrate the vital doctrines and precepts of the gospel, as Christian experience, repentance, faith, the witness of the Spirit, discipline of heart and mind, and dedication of self, time, and money to God. Its design is to make religion the life and business of the young, to show the beauty of piety, and to promote the fellowship of those who seek to walk daily with the Master.

More nearly than any other institution in the Church the Epworth League conserves the spirit and training of the now obsolete class meeting. No one dare predict what modifications in its Church fellowship, doctrines, and standard of spiritual life would occur in the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, were it not that the Epworth League keeps alive the practice of testimony to conscious salvation.

This understanding of the League is indispensable to successful and helpful membership therein.

Growth.

Members.—After twenty years the Epworth League reached a membership approximated at 150,000, an average growth of 7,500 members a year.

Chapters.—There are at present 3,906 Chapters. The increase for one year was 370 Chapters and 9,816 members. Seventy-one per cent of our pastoral charges have Epworth Leagues.

Finance.—In twenty years, from being a charge upon the hands of the Church and fostered by the already overworked Sunday School Board, the Epworth League has grown to be an independent department, almost entirely self-supporting. Its yearly budget is \$5,000. The Publishing Agents furnish \$1,000 of this amount by appropriation of the General Conference.

The *Epworth Era*, with 12,000 subscribers, for two successive years paid all expenses of its publication, including the salary of the General Secretary-Editor. In its new monthly form it will be entirely and regularly self-supporting.

The Department Force.—From one man already encumbered with exacting duties in another department the League force has grown to embrace a General Secretary, an Assistant Secretary, a Junior League Secretary, and an Office Secretary.

Organization.

The Epworth League is under the control of a General Epworth League Board, which is elected every four years by the General Conference. The members of the

Board consist of a bishop, three traveling elders, and three laymen. Of the present Board, Bishop James H. McCoy, of Alabama, is President. The clerical members are Rev. H. Walter Featherstun, of Mississippi, Rev. R. W. Hood, of Kentucky, and Rev. P. B. Kern, of Tennessee. The lay members are Mr. Gus W. Thomasson, of Texas, Mr. Hugh A. Locke, of Alabama, and Dr. E. C. Hamilton, of Virginia.

Auxiliary to the General Board, every Annual Conference elects, once in four years, an Epworth League Board, composed of one preacher and one layman from each presiding elder's district. Lately these Annual Conference Boards have been asked to elect each a Corresponding Secretary through whom the General Secretary may have ready access to all parts of the field.

Chapters of the Epworth League are ordered by the Discipline to be organized in every pastoral charge. A carefully written Constitution is provided, according to which every society is expected to conduct its business.

A General Secretary of the Epworth League is elected every four years by the General Conference. His office is at 810 Broadway, Nashville, Tenn. His salary is paid by the Publishing Agents, Smith & Lamar, and is covered by the proceeds from publishing the *Epworth Era*.

An assistant to the General Secretary, bearing the official title of Treasurer of the General Epworth League Board, is elected every four years by the Board. His salary is paid out of receipts on the Ten-Cent Assessment and in part by an appropriation by the Publishing Agents.

The administration of the Central Office at Nashville involves the items exhibited below, and is entirely dependent upon the Ten-Cent Assessment except as noted in paragraph 6 below.

Office expense	\$ 580
Office help	840
Traveling	600
Assistant Secretary-Treasurer	2,500
Printing and stationery.....	300
Sundries	300

Total.....\$5,120

1. *Office expense* covers cost of equipment and regular incidentals. Postage is a large item under this head. In one year 46,841 pieces of mail matter were sent out.

2. *Office help* covers the salary of the office secretary and extra service occasionally required by special correspondence.

3. *Traveling*.—This fund is designed to meet the expenses of the General Secretary and Assistant Secretary as they go about on League business. There has never been sufficient money available to permit them to cover the field effectively.

4. *Printing and Stationery*.—Advertisements, circulars, pamphlets, literature, and letterheads are all included under this item.

5. *Sundries*.—Unusual incidentals. The largest part of the amount appropriated goes to pay the expenses of the annual meeting of the Epworth League Board.

6. The total amount available for the maintenance of the Central Office is supplemented by the Publishing Agents in the sum of \$1,000. This allowance is based on the estimated profit from the sale of League literature.

Connectional League Work.

There are about two hundred and fifty larger Epworth League organizations—State, Annual Conference, District, and City Unions. Twelve years ago the assembly

idea obtained a concrete expression at Biloxi, Miss., in the organization of the Tri-State Epworth League Assembly, embracing the Leagues of Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. Subsequently the Missouri State League Conference took the form of an annual assembly at Pertle Springs; and the magnificent faith and courage of the Texas State League found expression in the purchase and equipment, at a cost of about \$20,000, of Epworth-by-the-Sea, where for seven years summer assemblies have been held. In 1911 at Sulphur, Okla., the third session of the Oklahoma Assembly and at Bon Aqua the second session of the Tennessee Conference Assembly were held. Courses in Bible study, missions, and methods of Christian work are given by competent leaders at these Assemblies. The atmosphere is favorable to evangelistic work, especially by personal contact; and numbers of consecrated as well as trained workers go from these Assemblies to enrich the life of their home communities.

The Junior League.

The Juniors number approximately one-third of the total membership of the League. The importance of the Junior Chapters has been enhanced by the adoption of a thorough course of study, extending through nine years, in the Bible, our Church and its benevolences, and missions. The age limit has been extended to include youths of fifteen in its Intermediate Department, thus bridging the gap that formerly existed between the Junior and the Senior Leagues. The new plans for the Juniors have been received with enthusiasm by our Junior Superintendents, and promises, besides a good deal of thorough training, to do much toward restoring the adolescent character of the Senior League, upon

which we cannot insist too strongly. In August, 1911, Miss Ada Trawick, of Nashville, Tenn., was elected Junior League Secretary by the General Board, to give her time exclusively to the promotion of the Junior League throughout the Church.

An Alternative Constitution for the Junior League has been prepared, by which, wherever the pastor desires, its missionary department may be made auxiliary to the Woman's Council, thus combining the work of the Juvenile Missionary Society with the Junior League.

The Boys' League.

Most earnest efforts have been made to have special work for boys undertaken in the Churches, whether in connection with the Epworth League or independently, and to that end certain features of the Boy Scouts have been incorporated in the Boys' League. Only a small number of Chapters have been chartered, but our literature has been used extensively and has resulted in the formation, under the leadership of Christian men, of many Boy Scout Patrols. It is unfortunate that these organizations are not in every case attached to the Church. To accomplish what we deem desirable we are endeavoring to promote Church work with boys as that only which can be relied upon to yield permanent spiritual results.

The League Unique among Our Working Organizations.

We gratefully recognize the contribution of the League to the all-round development of our young people through its Literary and Social Department. Many thousands of excellent books, many courses of systematic Bible study, and thousands of booklets dealing with the

great doctrinal and ethical subjects have been circulated, read, studied, and discussed by our young people, and their social life has been enriched by innumerable meetings. But the most important service of the League to the Church must be counted the training of our young people in testimony and public prayer through the Devotional Department, lacking which the character of both our ministers and congregations would undergo modifications the ultimate effect of which no man can foresee; but it is certain that the result would be something different from the witnessing, conquering Church of our fathers.

The League is a young people's organization. As such it has won its way, achieved its success, and as such it must be maintained.

The Contribution of the League to the Church.

1. *Church Organizations.*—A large proportion of the younger members of the boards of stewards, women's missionary societies, and Sunday school forces in many of our congregations have been recruited through the Epworth League.

2. The *Laymen's Movement* has been traced in large measure to the Young People's Movement, which is represented in our Church by the Epworth League. Mr. W. B. Stubbs, formerly Secretary of the Movement in our Church, and Dr. E. H. Rawlings, Educational Secretary of the Board of Missions, testify that the most effective work being done among us is by young men who received their training through the League.

Mr. Stevenson, of Illinois, who originated the Brotherhood Movement, and Mr. John B. Sleeman, who started the Laymen's Movement, testify that they got their inspiration in Christian Endeavor work. Marshall A.

Hudson, the founder of the world-wide Baraca, the father of the organized class movement which has been incorporated into our Church under the name of Wesley Adult Bible Class, declares that he simply tried to apply Christian Endeavor principles to Sunday school classes for the purpose of efficiency. Fred B. Smith, of the Men and Religion Forward Movement, was trained in a young people's society and began his career of leadership by organizing eighteen Christian Endeavor Societies in one year in a Western State.

3. *The Ministry*.—Leaders of the young people's societies in all the evangelical Churches testify that the ministry has been recruited principally through the young people's organizations. Thus Mr. William Shaw, Secretary of the United Society of Christian Endeavor, writes: "I am continually meeting pastors who state that they are in the ministry because of the training they received in the Christian Endeavor Societies." The Educational Secretary of a Baptist Association declares that in a certain theological seminary every student had been an active worker in the Baptist Young People's Union, and all counted the Union a factor in their entering the ministry. The General Secretary of the League in the Methodist Episcopal Church affirms that scarcely a young man enters their ministry but who has been a central figure in some Chapter. And it is a fair estimate that at least one thousand men are in the ministry of our own Church through the spiritual work of the League.

4. *Missions*.—Scarcely a candidate goes forth from the Board of Missions who has not been largely influenced and trained in the Epworth League. Sixteen missionaries from the South Georgia League Conference alone are now in the foreign field.

A Secretary of the Board of Missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church sat down at a breakfast in India with one hundred missionaries who had all come through the League.

The first President of the Methodist Training School at Nashville testified that practically all the students in that institution were found and enlisted in some Chapter of the Epworth League. With few exceptions, the ranks of the deaconess and city mission forces have been filled by young women who had been active League workers.

The Epworth League hastened by several years the opening of Korea, practically made possible the establishment of the Cuban Mission, and to-day is undertaking the entire support of the work in that field.

The special gifts of the Leagues for missions during three years of the past quadrennium amounted to nearly \$75,000; for other benevolences, \$225,000.

During 1907 and 1910 the Leagues raised \$55,495.01 in specials for missions and \$191,517.51 for other purposes, chiefly benevolent.

In the last five years the Epworth League, with only 150,000 members, has contributed to the treasury of our Church the princely sum of \$547,012.52.

This marvelous exhibition of devotion and liberality is explained in part by the fact that nearly *ten thousand* members of the League have been pursuing courses of study in missions.

"The possibilities of the Missionary Education Movement are simply boundless. If its campaign can be adequately waged, within fifteen years the entire Church of North America will be flooded with the missionary spirit." (John R. Mott.)

CHAPTER II.

Organization.

AN Epworth League Chapter is a division of the Epworth League organized in the local congregation. It is composed of young people who of their own choice join the society in order to help each other in the struggle for character, to train for Christian service, and to enlist for the work of Christ's kingdom. Hence it is a society for inspiration and for practice in the art of expression.

KINDS OF CHAPTERS.

There are three kinds of Chapters—Senior, Intermediate, and Junior. The Senior Chapter embraces young people above fifteen years of age, the maximum age limit not having yet been fixed. The Junior Chapter embraces boys and girls of the ages of seven to sixteen. It has three departments—the Primary, the Junior, and the Intermediate. The Primary Department includes children from seven to nine; the Junior, boys and girls from ten to fourteen; the Intermediate, boys and girls from fourteen to sixteen. The Intermediate Chapter is like the Senior Chapter, except that the age limit is from fourteen to seventeen.

A special provision has been made for boys from twelve to eighteen. They may organize a Chapter having only boys of their own age for members. They may secure a separate charter from the Central Office and conduct all their work entirely apart from girls and younger boys. This Chapter is known as the Boys' League.

It will thus be seen that the Epworth League strives to grade its work to the abilities of its members.

KINDS OF MEMBERS.

There are two kinds of members of an Epworth League Chapter. These are Active members and Associate members.

Active members are those who take part in the distinctively spiritual work of the Chapter. They are required to subscribe or assent to the Epworth League rule: "The application to daily life of our motto, 'All for Christ.'" Or, with the approval of the pastor and Council, this, "As an aid to the realization of the Epworth League motto, 'All for Christ,' I will make it the practice of my life to read the Bible and pray at some specified hour each day, to be faithful in attending the services of my own Church, and will endeavor each week to bring some one to the church service or otherwise do some personal work for the salvation of souls."

Associate members are those who are not professing Christians, but who attend the Chapter meetings and take part in such features of the program as they may elect.

STEPS IN ORGANIZING A CHAPTER.

1. *A Key Man*.—At least one person in the Church must be deeply interested. His interest will lead him first to learn all he can about the Epworth League. He may get literature from the Central Office, 810 Broadway, Nashville, Tenn., and carefully read it.

2. *A Determined Group*.—This interested and informed person will then select some other person and talk Epworth League to him until the second man becomes interested. Then these two may invite several of their

friends to meet them in conference, when the entire subject may be discussed at length. Literature may be had of Headquarters for the asking, enough to supply every person in the conference.

3. *Mass Meeting*.—When this group has decided that the time is favorable for organizing a Chapter, they will begin to prepare for a mass meeting of all the young people of the congregation.

First, an impressive program should be arranged, designed chiefly to convey information in regard to the Epworth League. It may be thought wise to invite a well-known League worker from a distance to make an address. If so, the President of the Annual Conference or State Epworth League, or the Chairman of the Epworth League Board of the Annual Conference, or the Secretary of the local district work should probably be considered for the duty, in the order given.

Next, it will be well to make a list of the names of those young people who may be judged most suitable to be the officers of the proposed organization.

It should be observed that *the President must be a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South*; and that *the rest of the officers must be members of some evangelical denomination*.

Then *advertise the meeting*. Put a notice of it in the Church bulletin, in the town paper, in your Church paper. Have it announced in the Sunday school, from the pulpit, in the societies or guilds already existing in the congregation. Talk it to everybody. See that personal invitations are given to the most promising young people of the Church. Follow up these invitations with reminder cards or telephone calls on the day the meeting is to take place.

4. *Organizing*.—At the end of the address, before the

mass meeting, let some one be chosen for temporary chairman, and let a temporary secretary be elected. The object of the meeting should be clearly stated. Then let the Constitution of the Epworth League be read and explained as fully as may be required. A vote may then be taken on *whether to go ahead with organizing an Epworth League*. This is important, for those who vote in favor of going ahead may be relied upon to feel doubly responsible for carrying on the society. By means of cards distributed through the audience a roll of members may then be made. Let it be understood that membership in the League means commitment to service.

When the question of organizing has been settled in the affirmative, it is the moment to move for a permanent organization. Nominations are in order. If it is the will of the assembly, the temporary chairman may appoint a committee to make the nominations. He may name some, at least, of those who sat in the first group conference. Otherwise the officers will be nominated from the floor and balloted for in order. The plan of appointing a nominating committee is usually to be preferred, as in that way greater care can be given to this most important part of the organization.

At the conclusion of the election a carefully prearranged good fellowship hour may bring the evening to a close.

Immediately after the organization has been perfected the Secretary or Reporter should send a full account of the event to the Central Office, 810 Broadway, Nashville, Tenn., and make application for a charter. The following blank application form, which may be obtained from the Central Office, should be filled in completely and accurately:

THE EPWORTH LEAGUE OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL
CHURCH, SOUTH—APPLICATION FOR CHARTER.

To the General Secretary: Inclosed find twenty-five cents for charter showing our enrollment as a Chapter of the Epworth League of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. We promise faithfully to observe its Constitution.

1. Give the name of your society as you wish it to appear upon charter.....
2. Name of Church (not necessary to repeat "M. E. Church, South").....
3. Pastoral charge.....
4. District
5. Conference
6. Name of city or town.....
7. If in the country, give nearest post office.....
8. County
9. State
10. Number of members enrolled (in figures).....
11. Name of pastor.....
12. Address of pastor.....
13. Name of President.....
14. Name of Secretary.....
15. Address of Secretary.....
16. Date of application.....
17. Has your Chapter been chartered before? If so, give original number.....
18. Send charter to.....
19. Post office.....
-

The Charter.—The charter is an illuminated document setting forth the fact and date of the organization of the Chapter, giving the official name and number of the particular League, and signed by the President and General Secretary of the Board. This charter is issued by the Central Office, and no League is officially recognized until it is chartered.

ESSENTIALS FOR ORGANIZING.

<i>Constitution and By-Laws</i> (for each member).	
Per hundred.....	\$0 40
<i>Epworth League Methods</i> . Brummitt.....	1 00
<i>Topic Cards</i> (for each member). Per hundred...	75
<i>Handbook</i> (for each officer). Each.....	10
<i>Helps for the Devotional Department</i> (for First Vice President). Each.....	25
<i>Manuals for the Departments</i> . Each.....	05
<i>One Dozen Report Blanks</i> (each No. 1 to 8½).	
Per dozen.....	05
<i>Record of Attendance Cards</i> (four for each ten members). Per hundred.....	75
<i>One Secretary's Record Book</i>	75
<i>One Treasurer's Record Book</i>	75
<i>The Epworth Era</i> . Annual subscription.....	75
(A free subscription with every list of ten; a half subscription with every list of five.)	
<i>Illuminated Charter</i> . Postpaid.....	25

CHAPTER III.

Officers.

The President.—The story of Atlas bearing up the pillars of the heavens is not a fable when applied to some posts and stations of human duty. The post of President of the Epworth League is most responsible. The incumbent should be a consecrated, wide-awake man or woman, and one who understands the significance of his task. He is to be the commander in chief of an important army, the ruler of a principality in the Church. Let such a man or woman be diligently sought for. He may be found "amongst the stuff." When found, he will soon make himself felt. He should be an epitome of the League idea—consecrated, intelligent, experienced in service. He presides at all business meetings, and presides over everybody else who presides in other departments. In a word, the League President is the pastor's representative in that part of the Church which is called Epworth.

The First Vice President.—Next to the President, the First Vice President occupies the most important office. He has and presides over a committee of three or more who have charge of the weekly prayer meetings, outdoor meetings, cottage meetings, etc. The First Vice President may conduct the prayer meeting himself or, after consulting the Council, appoint a leader; and the Constitution directs that all leaders shall be appointed and announced one month in advance of the meeting to be held. This rule faithfully followed will maintain a lively interest in the Department of Worship.

The Second Vice President has a committee of three or more to assist him in superintending the Department of Social Service. This department is to coöperate with the pastor in visiting the sick, distributing to the poor, ministering to those who are in prison, inviting and welcoming strangers, establishing flower missions, and in every way meeting the thought of the Master, who said: "Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye did it unto me." Increasing emphasis is to be placed on *prevention* work. The department must be *offensive* as well as *defensive*; *constructive* as well as *palliative*. The Vice President and the committee of this department should have frequent meetings—weekly, if possible; but in any case monthly. They should plan their work carefully and do it systematically.

The Third Vice President, with his appropriate committee of three or more, presides over the Department of Culture and Recreation. Here is the least cultivated but among the most helpful fields of League work. This department is expected to arrange for a monthly social and literary meeting, to be held in the Chapter room or in the home of some member of the League. At these meetings programs of music, choice readings, and original essays on League topics may be rendered. A debate is sometimes helpful. The whole range of pure literature and all the possible combinations of literary subjects are before the committee. Anything innocent, elevating, or imposing is admissible. Untold possibilities for the League lie in the literary meetings. The Third Vice President and his committee are always to ask if a library or a reading room may be maintained for the League or the public; are to look after the circulation of good literature, and especially the

books of our own Church, and work to put the *Epworth Era* in the hands of every Leaguer. The superintendence of the reading course also falls into their allotment of work. The reading course has been given prominence elsewhere in these pages. (See pages 86 ff.) Let the Vice President look carefully into it.

The Fourth Vice President is an officer whose election and duties were provided for by the Epworth League Board at its meeting in 1904. The work of missions has thus obtained a status in the League organization that better represents the importance that it has acquired as an integral part of the work. A similar provision has been made in the Constitution of the Junior League also.

The Fourth Vice President should be chosen with reference to his special qualifications for this important work, which, like the Third Department, makes unusual demands upon the resources of those having it in charge. His interest in missions should be well known, and he should be willing to study the subject perseveringly in order to make the work a success in his League. His enthusiasm will be communicated to others and his diligence will incite them to habits of industry.

The members who are to serve in the Fourth Department as a committee should possess the same qualifications as their chief. They should be chosen from the number of the most influential and able members of the League. Their appointment should be made as is the custom in the Chapter, either by appointment of the President or by selection by the head of the department, but in any case with these qualifications clearly in view.

The cause of missions has taken its present prominent

place in the League and other young people's societies as the result of the normal development of their religious life. Intelligent Christianity is essentially missionary. To promote this growth and to bring the League up to its highest efficiency as a part of the world-evangelizing forces of the Church is the weighty responsibility of the Fourth Vice President and his helpers.

Other Officers.—The other officers of the League are the Secretary, the Treasurer, *Epworth Era* Agent, the Junior Superintendent, and the Boys' League Superintendent. The duties of the first two are such as appertain to the same officers in other organizations. They should be careful to keep exact records of all amounts received and passing through their hands. The Secretary should procure a Secretary's record book from the Publishing House and preserve a complete roll of the membership of his League and keep full, neat minutes of every meeting of the Chapter. The office of *Epworth Era* Agent was provided for in 1903 in response to a felt need of the organization. His duty is to secure subscriptions for the *Epworth Era*, look after renewals, and correspond with the Central Office. The plan for circulating the *Epworth Era* is that the whole number of copies taken be mailed to the address of the *Era* Agent and by him distributed to the members. In this way the League organ may be had at a much lower price. It is usually best for the League to subscribe as a body for a sufficient number of copies of the *Era*. Careful, diligent attention to his duties will not only insure the financial independence of the *Era*, but go far toward rendering every department of the Chapter most efficient. The duties of the Junior Superintendent and Boys' League Superintendent are now par-

ticularly set forth in connection with the Junior League and the Boys' League.

The Pastor.—The pastor is the head of the League; the President and other League officers are his helpers, his "junior officers," so to speak. The true-hearted pastor will not wish to be a dictator in his League, neither will the true-hearted League President or other officer seek independency of his pastor in the conduct of his Chapter. When the League prayer meeting adjourns on Sabbath evening, it should be to repair as a body to the auditorium to join in the Sabbath service, or to go in small companies to mission stations and neglected places to hold gospel meetings. We Leaguers live to exemplify the gospel injunction: "Obey them that have the rule over you; who watch for your souls as they that must give an account." We live to make our Church a power for good. We can do this only by loyal devotion and ready obedience.

CHAPTER IV.

The Council.

THE LEAGUE WORKSHOP.

THE *very next* step after organizing is to assemble the Chapter Council.

The Council is composed of the pastor, the President, the four Vice Presidents, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the *Epworth Era* Agent. After a Junior League and a Boys' League have been organized, the Superintendents of these Chapters are also members of the Epworth League Council.

THE PASTOR'S PLACE.

The pastor is chairman of the Council. The Constitution provides that the Council meet *once a month*, and requires that *the pastor preside over its sessions*. The Constitution has nothing to say about the pastor in the devotional meeting, or in the social and literary meeting, or in the missionary rally. It places him where he can do the biggest work—in the Council. The pastor's true relation to the Chapter is to be formed and sustained through this group of Chapter officers. Of course the pastor ought frequently to be present at the weekly meetings of the League. But he should not feel that he *must attend every weekly service*, and the League should not expect him to do so. Indeed, if a pastor should find himself compelled to choose between sitting in the Council once a month

and appearing in each weekly service, by all means let him get the habit of holding the Council, and let him remain absent from the weekly meetings. There is a reason for this suggestion. It can be shown by setting forth the nature and importance of the work of the Council.

There are four things for the Council to do:

I. *Investigate conditions.* Find out what the facts are.

II. *Decide on a policy*—that is, determine just how much of the work needing to be done ought to be undertaken by the Chapter in a given time.

III. *Make a plan for carrying out the policy.*

IV. *Work the plan.*

I. Investigate Conditions.

1. In regard to the *membership* of the Chapter.

(1) *Numerical strength.*

(2) How many of them are *active* Christians? How many are merely *professing* Christians? How many are *not* Christians? What is their attitude toward becoming Christians?

(3) What are the occupations of the members? How many are clerks, proprietors, professional workers, artisans, students, dependents at home, etc.?

(4). Where do the members live? It is important to know street addresses, character of neighborhood, condition of houses, distance from the church, etc.

Knowledge of these and related items is necessary in order to assign the members to the departments of work which best suit their capacities. And this is one of the most important things the Council has to do. A group ought to be assigned for work for a period of months chiefly, if not exclusively, to the Devotional

Department; another group to the Second; a third to the Social and Literary; and a fourth to the Missionary Department. At the end of the agreed time the groups may be shifted.

2. The Council should investigate conditions *in regard to the task of evangelizing the community.*

This falls properly to the Devotional Department. But the First Vice President and his committee cannot deal successfully with the question apart from the wisdom of the Council. They can become chiefly responsible for executing the plan worked out in the Council, and this, of course, they will do.

Beyond exhausting the inquiry suggested above relating to finding out what number of the Leaguers are Christians and how many are not, the Council will enter diligently into such questions as the following:

What kinds of service are the active Christians rendering? Ought any of the workers to be changed to different employments? How can those who are weak and untrained be helped to become more effective? How many of the membership are hopeful material for special forms of Christian service as preachers, missionaries, deaconesses, teachers, etc.?

What is the most appealing objective that can be placed before the inactive Church members to get them to work? How can the proper motive best be supplied?

What is the best plan by which the members who are not Christians may be helped to become the friends of Jesus Christ?

Then, passing beyond this examination of its own household, the Council will ask: How many non-Christian people are there in our community, and how many of them ought this Chapter to try to bring to Jesus? It will not be going too far to make an actual

list of the names of the persons for whom the Chapter thinks it ought to become responsible.

Then another step. What is *our* share of the work of evangelizing the forty millions of people in foreign countries for whom the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, is responsible?

3. The Council should find out the facts in regard to *opportunities for social service in the local community itself*. Poverty, crime, bad sanitation, bad housing, overworked women, criminally worked children, drunkenness, impurity, cheating and defrauding, injustice, persecution, oppression, illiteracy, contagious and infectious diseases—these evils, or some of them, with an unending train of others equally base, exist *everywhere*. The foreigner in our midst and the negro demand large consideration. It is a poor sort of virtue that excuses itself for having *no* program by saying that there are no ill conditions to be encountered at home. It is the business of the Church to *destroy the works of the devil*, to clear the ground of stones and thorns and clods in order that the seed may produce a harvest.

4. Investigate conditions in regard to *the need of helpful recreation and profitable intellectual employment*.

What forms of amusement are popular with the young people? Can these amusements be made to contribute anything to the development of character? What can be substituted for *hurtful* amusements? Are there any who do not have time for recreation?

Are the young people divided into "sets?" Upon what basis can they be brought into friendly association?

Are the young people employed intellectually? Adequately? Helpfully? What can be *done to increase their*

opportunities for mental culture? What can be done to *direct* and *elevate* their intellectual activities?

This is getting at the question, *Why?* It is necessary to answer these questions as fully as possible, and with complete frankness, before anything can be done toward suggesting a policy or measure of work for the year.

II. Decide on a Policy.

In the light of the facts brought out in the investigation, the Council will next set forth in writing and in detail all the things that the Chapter ought to try to accomplish during the year.

The Council must now answer the question, *What?* The Model Policy exhibited below has been arranged for its suggestive value. The Chapter ought to select such of the items indicated as there is reason to believe it can actually accomplish.

A MODEL POLICY FOR A LEAGUE CHAPTER.

Since it is the first aim of this Chapter to make friendship with Jesus Christ the leading fact in the lives of all whom it can influence, we are firmly resolved:

1. To do everything in our power to make the devotional feature of the Chapter's life of first importance and worth always:

(1) By making the weekly hour of worship *interesting* on account of well-designed variety, and *helpful* on account of the continual freshening it receives from our own enlarging experiences.

(2) By conducting weekly Bible classes in the systematic and devotional study of the Scriptures, encouraging the members of these groups especially to keep the Morning Watch.

(3) By maintaining a well-conducted Fellow-Work-

ers' Group, through whose activities young persons will be continually brought into the friendship of Jesus.

(4) By forming a circle of special workers who shall diligently give heed to holding gospel meetings in neglected and unfortunate places.

2. It shall be our purpose to strive to enlarge and improve the social and intellectual life of the young people:

(1) By conducting at least one mass social every quarter in the League rooms, and by providing at least one program for the intellectual life.

(2) By arranging for group socials as frequently as the welfare of the members shall approve, combining with this social feature, wherever possible, some appealing intellectual interest; as, for example, Reading Circles.

(3) By improving the grace of hospitality among ourselves by inviting each other to each other's homes.

(4) By taking special pains to interest and instruct the young people in the history and the literature of Methodism and in the hymns of Methodism, and in the best literature in other fields.

3. In the field of missionary endeavor it shall be our purpose:

(1) To endeavor to relieve the miserable ones of the congregation and of this community. To do this work satisfactorily we mean to become students of conditions and seek to apply the remedy only after we have learned causes and mastered conditions.

(2) To endeavor to prevent misery. To do this we mean to possess ourselves of knowledge of tendencies and their causes, and to devote ourselves patiently and diligently to the task of banishing poverty, crime, disease, and intemperance.

(3) To be on the watch for opportunities to lend a helping hand in every good plan and wise enterprise for the good of men.

4. As to our interests abroad, more specifically, we are determined:

(1) To know the world-field through Mission Study Classes and other forms of investigation. We purpose having at least two Study Classes.

(2) And to occupy the world-field.

(a) By our offerings for the support of the Cuba special in a sum not less than \$——.

(b) By our gift of life, our aim being to provide at least two recruits for the firing line.

III. The Plan.

The next thing is the plan. No great building is undertaken without drawings and specifications by a competent architect. The League Chapter cannot be built up without a carefully drawn *program of work*. The Council must now answer the questions, *How?* and *When?*

1. To begin with, every member of the Chapter should be appointed to work in one of the departments. These assignments may be made by the President with advice of the Council.

2. Topics for the weekly meetings ought to be selected for *at least three months* in advance, preferably six, and a leader for each meeting chosen. It is advised that the topics prepared at League Headquarters be used.

3. It ought to be determined just how many services will be held in the interest of social service, in the interest of missions, and in the interest of the benevolences.

4. The special days appearing on the League Calendar (see page 46) and falling within the quarter or half year ought to be carefully noted and steps taken *at once* to make them distinctive and significant.

A FINANCIAL PLAN FOR THE LEAGUE CHAPTER.

5. The Council ought to prepare a financial plan for the Chapter. At no point is the Epworth League so inefficient as in the matter of handling its finances. Hence the local work is inadequate, outside obligations are tardily met, and enterprises that ought to be big dwindle to discouraging proportions.

After the Council has decided *what* it will propose to undertake it, it should proceed to estimate the cost of the enterprise and suggest a practical way to meet the expense. The following table is given to illustrate the budget method, averaged for a Chapter of fifty members:

Expenditures.

Central Office Fund.....	\$ 5 00
State Work Fund.....	2 50
Advertising	4 00
Delegates' Fund.....	20 00
Department supplies: First.....	3 00
Second	5 00
Third	2 50
Fourth	2 50
Special missionary offering.....	25 00
Miscellaneous offerings.....	10 00
Twenty copies of the <i>Epworth Era</i>	10 00
Miscellaneous expense.....	10 50—\$100 00

Resources.

Voluntary pledges by Leaguers.....	\$50 00
Contributions from others.....	25 00

Profits from lecture course.....	\$15 00
Offerings on special days.....	10 00—\$100 00

The budget should be handled by a finance committee. Payments in monthly installments should be required. Envelopes are essential.

Notice that *dues* of any and all kinds are not mentioned in this plan. Chapters will do well to abandon entirely the trivial and utterly unsatisfactory custom of assessing every Leaguer so much a month. Put the support of the Chapter on an *intelligent* and *voluntary* basis. Let the members know what the program is, how much it will cost, and then let them contribute according to the need and their ability.

IV. Working the Plan.

The last thing is the ever-present, never-ending, difficult, yet absorbingly interesting task of *keeping the machinery going*. In order to do this the Council will soon learn the necessity of *meeting regularly once a month*.

In every meeting it will be found profitable

1. To review the work of the past four weeks.
2. To select some new special feature of an attractive nature to present to the Chapter during the following month.
3. To improve, by changing and enlarging it in the light of fuller understanding, the plan of work for the future.

The Council reports the results of its deliberations to the *business meeting* of the Chapter. Its report is received, discussed, modified, and adopted or rejected by the votes of the members. /

THE BUSINESS MEETING.

This meeting is scheduled to occur at a certain time in every month. It follows hard upon the monthly meeting of the Council, and is quite an ill success if the Council session has been neglected.

The business meeting has no place on a Sabbath day's schedule. Neither does it need to conflict with any set service of the Chapter, either devotional or social. It is of sufficient importance to demand attention at a time exclusively its own. There isn't anything concerning which men—and that includes young people—are more eager to assemble in special conference than concerning a question of business. Hence in a brief word the secret of a successful business meeting is to *have some real business to attend to.*

The President's Opportunity.

The business meeting is the place where the President of the Chapter impresses himself most directly upon the life of the entire organization. Our Constitution says that the President shall preside at the business meetings. To hold the gavel on these occasions gives an opportunity for a very high and useful quality of service. Every one will readily admit that it is impossible for any person to conduct a meeting of this character with profit to the members *unless he possesses accurate knowledge of all the affairs of the Chapter.* It is not permissible for him to allow any officer to surpass him in command of the principles and methods of the Chapter's policy and program. He cannot allow himself to fall short of holding the position of final authority on all League matters as long as he is at the head of the society.

"He makes himself felt in every department, and is

really cognizant of the affairs of each," was said of Sir Robert Peel, so long England's Prime Minister.

These are some of the weighty matters which depend upon the President for execution:

1. *Arranging the program* for the business meeting. The Council may vote that certain affairs ought to be presented to the Chapter in a business session. It remains for the President to decide *how* the presentation shall be made. Shall it be by resolution or by a paper or by a speech or in the form of a recommendation? Who shall be chosen to introduce the matter? What members shall be invited to prepare to champion the measure?

Then speakers, writers, debaters *must be directed to the sources of assistance* needed in preparation. This is largely the President's duty. Not only so, but he will find it necessary to furnish his own mind with ready information and apt suggestions for those whom he has to direct.

After all these things have been done, the President must bring his skill into play in arranging the events on his program so as to focus their meaning on the one point which it is desired to carry. It will require thought and many disappointing trials before this can be done as it should be done.

2. *The appointing of committees* is a delicate and serious action required of a League President. To fit individuals to tasks, to harmonize persons of varying views, to avoid overworking a few willing and competent members, to have an eye to developing the untried and therefore untrained workers—these observances confront him who essays to be the President of an Epworth League.

3. "According to parliamentary law" will be the motto

of the diligent President who truly wants to be competent as well in conducting a business meeting. "The Parliamentarian" is a primer on parliamentary procedure prepared with a special view to instructing Epworth Leaguers. Robert's "Rules of Order" is the manual according to which all the major Conferences of our Church are conducted. The careful League President will master the principles set forth in these or similar books, and will give heed to making himself familiar with as many details as he can compass. Orderliness gives a deliberative body a positive attraction. The method of procedure will frequently command the attention of some who are not intelligently concerned for the business itself. There is great need for this identical virtue in many legislatures and religious assemblies. But the generation now on the stage may not be expected to cultivate it extensively. The business meeting of an Epworth League affords for many young people the sole opportunity they will ever have to accustom themselves to obedience to proper rules of order. The President's responsibility is, therefore, as grave as his opportunity is great.

Suggested Order of Business.

1. *Call the Meeting to Order.*—The President may strike the table with his gavel and say: "The meeting will now come to order." Silence should be secured before another step is taken.

2. *Roll Call.*—The Secretary should call the names and let his assistant mark the attendance. In this way the list can be gone through very rapidly. Of course two copies of the enrollment will be necessary.

3. *Devotional Service.*—A short Scripture selection read without comment, a pointed, earnest prayer, and a

fine hymn sung heartily by all the congregation should amply suffice. We are not heard for much speaking. It is not sensible to turn the business meeting into a devotional meeting.

4. Let the minutes of the last business meeting be read, corrected if necessary, and formally approved. The reports received at the last meeting should *not* be read, but simply referred to by letters. Thus, "See report A, B, C," etc.

5. *Reports*.—(1) From the Departments, Junior League and Boys' League. The blank forms provided by the Central Office should be filled in correctly and *handed to the Secretary*. But the report announced to the Chapter would better be verbal and have as little as possible to do with mere statistics. (2) From special committees. (3) From the Council. The Council should deserve the last place here by reason of the importance of the *new* business it may propose.

6. *Special Order*.—Every business meeting should have a distinctive objective. All the proceedings ought to be made to hinge on this objective. It should be agreed beforehand that the special subject for discussion shall come up at a certain hour. When this hour arrives, the President should halt all other business and call for the special order.

Illustrations of what is meant by a "special order:"

The question of forwarding mission study. A missionary rally may give the inspiration, but the matter of equipment, involving reference libraries, maps, charts, etc., can be determined fairly only in the business meeting.

A proposal to launch upon a campaign for temperance, taking up a scientific survey of the community, facing the duty of coming to the aid of the Boys'

League or of the Junior Chapter—any one of these items is well worth special consideration in the business meeting.

It will thus be seen that instead of being a tiresome occasion the business meeting may become the chief event of many a month's work. Conducted in the manner here described, it will of necessity combine with its purely administrative features, features of literary and forensic importance. The best debates, the best essays, the best orations, the best criticisms will be produced by relating these commendable employments to the practical needs of the Chapter.

The Hour of Fellowship.

After a spirited business meeting, there will be much to talk about. *Conversation* maketh a profitable social affair, much more than eating, though the latter is not to be despised after men have famished themselves in vigorous disputation. The warmth engendered in the business meeting makes an unrivaled atmosphere for a season of real, informal, heart-to-heart intercourse.

CHAPTER V.

The Work of the League.

THE LEAGUE CALENDAR.

It was a reproach to the backsliding Galatians that they observed "days and months and times and years;" not so in the development of the Epworth League idea. Not as fetishes to which a mystical virtue is attached, but as reminders of the goodness of God toward us and as stated occasions for renewal of our purposes and contemplation of the opportunities before us, certain anniversaries are observed in the League by appropriately chosen topics and services.

First in time is the Quiet Hour Covenant, which is always presented the first Sunday in January. After forcibly presenting the importance of the subject, the whole Chapter, if possible, should be enrolled in the covenant to spend at least fifteen minutes each day at some regular time in devotional Bible-reading and secret prayer.

Fellowship Week begins the Sunday preceding Easter, and is so named partly because it is an observance of World-Wide Young Methodism, but chiefly because at that time by daily coming together for a prayer service, of which the theme is appropriate to the corresponding day of our Lord's last week on earth, we seek to enter into a closer fellowship with Christ. A program of daily services is prepared by the Central Office and can be had of Smith & Lamar. (See Appendix.)

It is an excellent plan for the League to invite to these daily services the whole congregation. In cities the Epworth League Union may arrange for holding them in groups in different parts of the city, thus bringing together the Leaguers of the several Churches.

Epworth League Day is the first Sunday in May, which corresponds as nearly as possible with the date of the memorial that went from Trinity Church (Los Angeles, Cal.) to the General Conference of 1890, praying that the work among the young people be organized into a connectional society. *Epworth League Day* is to be observed throughout the Church by a public service, for which a program is prepared by the Secretaries and published by the Publishing Agents.¹

Education Day comes early in June, and is devoted especially to the great cause of Christian education in the Church. The topic for the day has special reference to the work of the schools and colleges in their relation to the production of well-equipped Christian manhood and womanhood.

Epworth League Rally Day is appointed for the first Sunday in September, but when advantageous to do so may be observed later in the month. Its design is to concentrate the League forces after the summer vacations and interruptions and to revive the interest in the League throughout the congregation, and should be made the occasion of earnest purpose and renewal of consecration to the work of the League. With the pastor's coöperation it may be appropriately observed by a public service in the main auditorium of the church.

¹At this service, designed to be public and at a prominent hour, an offering is to be taken for League extension.

This is a good time for presenting the Fellow Workers' Covenant for signature. Those who have previously subscribed to it should renew, and others should then enter this earnest band of soul winners within the League.

Mission Study Class, Day coincides with the missionary meeting in October. A special program is published in the *Era*, and the regular issue of the magazine about two weeks in advance is devoted to the subject of the Mission Study Class. It may be inferred from this fact that the Epworth League Department deems this day of the greatest importance among our anniversaries. Mission study is the theme. Arrangements for leaders of classes having been previously made, if possible classes should be enrolled and the study undertaken on this day. As the previous year's work has done much for the qualification of leaders, there should be a multiplication of class groups in each League Chapter that has had one.

The third Sunday in September is *Bible Study Day*. This anniversary is observed in common with thousands of congregations and other societies throughout the United States. It should be the occasion of earnestly urging the importance of systematic Bible study. The League offers a course which is elsewhere referred to in the HANDBOOK. It should be explained and circles for its study formed.

For the profitable use of this calendar the essential thing is *preparation*. Leaders for each anniversary should be appointed long in advance; literature should be procured from the Central Office; the interest of the whole League should be excited by frequent announcements, by the appointment of committees in charge of all special work, and by ample advertisement

in the congregation, in order that the *whole Church* may participate in the benefits of these anniversaries.

CHART OF THE WORK OF THE DEPARTMENTS.

The following division of the work of the League follows the Constitution, and is designed to aid the Chapters both by suggestion of work that may profitably be undertaken and better systemization of what is already being done. It is not expected by any means that all these phases of work shall be undertaken by every League Chapter, but there should be on the part of every Chapter a constant development in the direction of realizing its utmost possibilities of usefulness. Each member should have some assigned work in one department at least; in smaller Chapters in more than one.

I. Department of Worship and Evangelism.

1. The weekly League prayer meeting.
2. The oversight of members for the maintenance of fidelity in attending and participating in the meetings—Watch Committee.
3. The prayer meeting choir.
4. Cottage and open-air meetings.
5. Personal work—the Fellow Workers' Covenant.
6. Personal piety—the Quiet Hour Covenant.
7. Assistance in the midweek Church prayer meeting and public worship.

II. Department of Social Service.

1. Visitation and provision for the sick.
2. Providing nurses for the sick.
3. Visitation of hospitals, prisons, etc.
4. Relief of the poor and destitute.

5. Promotion of Sunday school attendance, especially by providing suitable clothing for poor children.
6. Systematic visitation under direction of the pastor.
7. Reform work, distribution of tracts on temperance, purity, citizenship, etc.
8. The welcome and invitation of strangers.
9. Temperance meetings.

III. Department of Culture and Recreation.

1. Good literature—the Reading Circle.
2. Library and circulation of Reading Courses.
3. The study of Church doctrines and history.
4. Promotion of the social life of the Church—literary and social meetings.
5. Lyceum courses.
6. Worship music—the study of Church hymns.
7. Circulation of Church periodicals, especially the *Era*.
8. Out-of-door recreations.

IV. Department of Missionary Work.

1. The monthly missionary meeting.
2. The Mission Study Class.
3. The missionary library and periodicals.
4. Christian stewardship—systematic and proportionate giving—Christian Stewardship Covenant.
5. Special missionary offerings and their disbursement.
6. Prayer for missions.
7. Occasional public meetings in the interest of missions.
8. Home mission work, such as Sunday schools, settlements, etc.

THE FIRST DEPARTMENT.

Worship and Evangelism.

First in order of arrangement and, what is far more significant, first in importance. Perhaps this is the best name for this department. We call it variously the Department of Worship and the Devotional Department, meaning to describe its function. But unless our definition of worship is very broad the usual title is not satisfactory. "First" Department leaves much room for filling up the measure of a true ideal of adequacy and efficiency.

What is the true business of the First Department? Answer to this question must be attempted before entering upon the inquiry as to what methods the work of the department demands.

A partial answer is that this department is designed to give young people a personal sense of the nearness of God. A fuller answer would add that the department aims to help young people *express the admiration and reverence they feel for God*, and also to lead them to form the habit of complete dependence upon him. To stir to life and to improve the gift of communion is the meaning of this observation.

Now, the answer may be completed by joining to the two ideas already mentioned the thought of *speaking to men for God*. To prepare the heart with a message and to loosen the tongue with an enthusiasm for speaking the truth is the finished work of the First Department.

Awareness of God, the habit of communing with God, and the passion for telling God's truth to men—these are the things this First Department declares its purpose to impart.

MEANS.

What are the means by which the First Department seeks to realize its threefold aim?

1. A weekly devotional meeting.
2. Daily systematic Bible study and secret prayer.
3. Personal and group evangelism.
4. Participation in the public worship of the congregation.

These four items ought to be thoroughly mastered by the First Vice President. Other undertakings may well be deferred or even ignored altogether.

The rest of the discussion now will be occupied with the question of ways of handling the means.

I. The Devotional Meeting.

The first thing necessary is to *prepare* for the devotional meeting.

1. The initial step ought to be taken in one of the early sessions of the Council. Here the preparation will of course be general rather than particular. The Council ought certainly to go this far: (1) To decide on the topics for at least three months in advance, and (2) to select the leaders for the successive weekly discussions.

2. The second step is for all the leaders appointed for one month to meet with the First Vice President and his committee for conference, instruction, and earnest prayer.

3. The next advance will be for the leader for a given week to call together those whom he has invited to help him with the service. The aim will be to work out the smaller details of the program, to pray much, and to *rehearse* the parts. Scripture-readings, press selections, short talks, special songs or instrumental

pieces, etc., should all be carefully studied and recited in this meeting or privately to make sure of a creditable performance before the Chapter. This meeting ought to take place the first time not later than two weeks before the program is to be given, and repeated as often thereafter as necessary.

4. The last step in preparation will be earnest, continual, intelligent, very prayerful and scriptural *personal preparation* on the part of those who are to bear the responsibility of the meeting.

FEATURES.

If the preparation is to be *adequate*, those features which are vital to an effective devotional meeting must not on any account be neglected. What, then, are the essential features of the desirable devotional meeting?

1. *A central theme* properly related to those which come before as well as to those which follow after. This feature is easily secured by using the topics prepared in the Central Office.

2. *A Specific Object*.—What is the theme to be made to accomplish? To deepen the love of believers? or to give a lesson in the expression of love? or to win some one to the friendship of Jesus? Decide very definitely, then drive to the single aim.

3. *Specific Prayer*.—The prayers are just as deserving of reverent premeditation as are the talks and compositions. Definite objects of prayer should be announced, and those who lead should train themselves to pointedness and brevity.

4. *Spirited Song*.—The standard Hymnal should be the book of song in the Epworth League devotional meeting, because its music is amply adapted to young people's meetings and the quality thereof is without

a serious rival; because the poetry and the sense of the hymns are incomparably superior to those of the songs commonly used in our societies; because the Hymnal is the book of song in the public congregation. With the same practice of our standard hymns as is expended upon the jiglike tunes of the cheap revival editions our Leaguers will become proficient in the use of the Hymnal.

5. *Participation* by all the members of the Chapter. Not by all at any single meeting, perhaps, but by such a number at every service that during the quarter every member shall have taken some worthy part. That League is a failure in which an overworked half dozen persons do all the leading and all the talking. The devotional meeting is for *inspiration through striving* and *efficiency through practice*. Defraud no member of his rights. Let none relax in a false belief that he is not needed. "By that which *every joint* supplieth" is the body made strong.

6. A good way to secure general participation is to encourage much *giving of testimony*. It is not desirable that Leaguers cultivate the habit of morbid self-examination or practice the recitation of their woes or ecstasies before a crowd. But it is always helpful for the Christian to tell *what he has seen* of God's action in the world, and he may learn how to recount his own adventures in a pleasing and uplifting manner. Topics for testimony ought to be announced frequently and careful, conscientious preparation made to speak upon the deep things of God.

7. *Variety*.—It is not true that nothing should ever be repeated; that every feature of a weekly service should be new and untried. But it is true that no feature should be allowed to grow distasteful by reason

of staleness. Even the *order of arrangement* of the items on a program may become monotonous. Introduce new features. Shift the numbers. Learn new hymns. Try different kinds of prayers. Change the "talks" sometimes to discussions or elevating addresses by invited speakers. Do not allow even the most enthusiastic friends of the League to know certainly what is going to happen next. The first step toward achieving *variety* is for the Vice President and the leaders chosen for a given period to *plan the meetings for that period so that each one will have a different point of emphasis*. Then each leader, with his helpers, should work out the details of the service for which he is responsible. Then the leaders should meet again with the Vice President and carefully modify the series of programs so as to make sameness impossible.

8. Without *fellowship* the devotional meeting will fail of its true spirit and highest purpose. Praying together ought to prepare young people for genuine friendliness. And before leaving the room they ought to exercise themselves in the graces of brotherly communication.

In striving for all these essentials let them not be treated as the *ends sought*. Keep the primary goal in view—the Christianizing of the lives of the members and the constituency. A Chapter meeting may be largely attended and the songs and prayers and speeches may be well ordered and marked by much excellence; but if the young people's hearts are not aglow with a passion for helping all men to know God and Jesus Christ, the service ends in mere formality.

A committee to be known as the Watch Committee shall be formed in this department, which shall keep an accurate record of the attendance and participation of members in the weekly devotional meetings, and by

visitation and personal work shall endeavor to keep up the attendance on and participation of members in the meeting.

This committee should be composed of one for every ten members of the Chapter, each committeeman being responsible for a group of ten.

Sample Program.

All things being got in readiness, at the hour (exactly) appointed open the meeting, and proceed after the following manner:

1. Singing, "Young People's Hymnal."
2. Prayer by the leader.
3. Singing, usually two selections.
4. Prayer by a member.
5. Scripture-reading (Topic Card references) and brief comments by the leader.
6. Singing, solo if desired.
7. Brief comments on the lesson, testimonies, or Scripture quotations by members, interspersed with stanzas of familiar spiritual songs. (Some Chapters call the roll and have each Leaguer answer to his name with comment, testimony, and Scripture quotation or else. A good plan for a monthly consecration meeting.)
8. A number of short prayers.
9. Singing (offering if your financial plan calls for it).
10. Announcement of leader for next meeting. Other announcements.
11. Closing song.
12. League benediction.

Consecration Meetings.

Every League prayer meeting should be a consecration service in the true sense. But the disciples awaited

purposefully the baptism of Pentecost. Great spiritual power will come to the League out of a monthly meeting given up wholly to consecration—that is, to song, prayer, and earnest testimonies and heart-searchings. For this purpose the League may be divided into classes or companies; but it is perhaps always best to have the meeting with the Chapter as a whole. We earnestly recommend that the consecration meeting be made a feature of League life everywhere. At the monthly consecration meeting let the roll of active members be called and let each respond in some appropriate way by testimony, reading or reciting a passage of Scripture or a hymn, by prayer, by narrating a helpful incident, or by avowing a purpose. The meeting should usually be concluded by giving an opportunity for associate members to express their purpose of seeking the Lord or for requests for prayers.

II. Bible Study.

Why should the Epworth League have anything to do with Bible study? Does it not by so doing intrude upon the domain of the Sunday school? Isn't it enough that our young people study every week the International Lessons?

A general answer might be given by saying that it is not possible to spend too much time in the proper study of the Bible. More definitely, use of all the agencies known does not succeed in keeping very many people adequately occupied in studying the Scriptures. Critically, the study most of us expend on the Word of God is done with little enthusiasm and a deplorable absence of thoroughness. Practically, there are beyond 500,000 men in North America enrolled in special Bible study independently of the Sunday school; and besides

this, scores of colleges and universities require Bible study as a part of the curriculum. Positively, then, no scheme for training Christian workers, the major part of whose business is evangelism, is half complete without Bible study.

COURSES OFFERED.

The school of Bible study in the Epworth League offers four courses: "The Story of the Old Testament," by Prof. Frank Seay; "Studies in Ten Great Psalms," by McFadyen; "The Life of Christ," by Bosworth; "Studies in the Life of Paul," by Sallmon. These texts have been prepared in portions designed for daily reading, with a brief comment by the author on each section. Thus the habit of regular Scripture-reading and prayer may be surely acquired. Serious meditation also is aided. So the student is stimulated to assimilate the truth presented.

But beyond the large gain to the personal life of the student, painstaking Bible study gives an adequate working knowledge of the Scriptures. To know how to handle the Word of God, rightly dividing the truth to those under instruction, must be the ambition of every one who essays to do personal work or engage in group evangelism. The day is gone when the "proof text" can be quoted in final settlement of doctrinal questions or honest doubt. The worker must have a firm grasp upon the body of truth as a whole and have some understanding of the relation of each part to the other. The historical study of the Bible gives a connected, ample, and convincing view of the entire range of sacred truth. And this method is most easily employed in a small group with a clear textbook and an interested leader.

HOW TO ORGANIZE A CLASS.

1. Distribute cards for enrolling Comrades of the Quiet Hour. Let the Devotional Committee propose one of the textbooks mentioned above for use by all the Comrades in their daily Bible-reading. Then let the Devotional Committee receive weekly reports from those who have signed the covenant. Experience gained by this practice will furnish many vital topics for testimony in the devotional meeting.

2. Tighten the bonds of the covenant by inviting the Comrades to meet every two weeks or monthly for a discussion of the subjects pursued. This gives a Bible-reading circle. It will be found more advantageous than the plan of individual study described above.

3. Form an organized group or groups for Bible study.

In order to organize a class in Bible study a competent leader should be found, one who has a real Christian experience, one who is willing to study the text in order to be able to guide the discussion aright, and one who is either doing or desires to do personal work.

A thorough canvass should then be made of the entire membership of the League and also of all young people in the Church who may not belong to the League. In this canvass stress should be laid on the fact that the real meaning of Christian life is to be studied with the purpose of fitting workers for personal service. In making this canvass Leaguers should go two and two. It should be done systematically and promptly. It would do well if two, four, six, or more Leaguers, composing one, two, three, or more teams of two, would divide out the names and then set a day when they would work simultaneously, thus seeing every young person in the Church in one day's time.

As those who are enrolling members see the various individuals, they should insist that every one enrolling subscribe for a book, as *no good work can be done unless each member has a copy to study, mark, etc.* It is almost always better to secure the money (50 cents) for the book at the time of enrolling the Leaguers.

The enrollment being completed and the books having arrived, all the class members should meet and set a definite date and hour for the *weekly meeting*. A secretary of the class should be appointed and a careful roll kept. Every member should be made to feel that he is expected at each meeting.

Have the class or classes take up one or more of the courses already mentioned. Enrollment cards showing the titles of the several courses offered may be had of Smith & Lamar. There should be a competent leader for each group. Meetings should be held weekly. They should be given the character of conferences rather than of periods for recitation merely. At the beginning of every meeting assignments for the next study should be given, followed by a short, illuminating review of the preceding lesson. Then the class is ready to begin the discussion on the subject in hand.

If a member is absent from any meeting, he should be followed up at once by the leader or the secretary and urged to be present at the next meeting.

The first five minutes of each class hour may well be spent in assigning some questions to be answered at the next meeting. These questions should bear directly on the lesson for the next hour, and should call out the experience of class members and provoke thoughtfulness.

After the assignment of the lesson for the following week, the session should be opened with prayer, a brief résumé of the last lesson may be given, and then the discussion of the lesson taken up.

Care should be taken that the leader shall not lecture, but that every member of the class be induced to have a part in the hour's work.

The class should begin and close on time, and should meet in a place satisfactory to all, either at the home of some Leaguer or at the church.

After the work has progressed for two or three weeks, it will be well to begin planning to talk with others quietly about their Christian life. Reports of actual work at the sessions will add new zest to the study. The main aim of the study is to make such work possible and successful.

III. Evangelism.

Bible study and daily prayer will amount to very little if they fail to make one want to help others to become Christians. By regularly observing the Quiet Hour several motives to do personal work will almost necessarily be developed: (1) Loyalty to the growing friendship with Jesus Christ will impel one to seek out others for this friendship. (2) An ever-deepening concern for the highest welfare of his brother will cause the sincere Leaguer to strive to bring him into fellowship with Christ. (3) The pure joy of telling the story will move the heart to continual utterance.

HOW TO DO PERSONAL WORK.

1. Form the *habit* of making your first care for men to be to bring them to Christ. You have friends who are not Christians. Your new experience of the life

of God in your own soul will cause you to wish *first* to help them to have the same life in their souls. You meet a person for the first time—in social or business or political or Church relations—what is the very first question you want to have answered about him? You enter a crowded railway carriage or street car—what is your first thought in regard to the people riding there?

2. Then cultivate the gift of showing a kindly spirit toward everybody and of making friends with those with whom you are thrown by chance or fortune.

3. It will be found a great advantage to approach the person you desire to win on the plane of an interest common to you both. Then the conversation may be guided in the direction you wish it to take.

4. If a personal interview be not possible or thought inexpedient, try a written message carefully worded and sealed with prayer.

5. An invitation to dine may prove the *opening wedge* of a lasting influence for good.

6. Let every word of invitation or appeal be spoken in the spirit of prayer. The Spirit may be trusted for right promptings and unfailing support.

7. All individuals who enlist to do personal work should band themselves into a *secret service group*. Their task should be carefully mapped out to cover an entire year. Lists of the names of those to be sought should be prepared and the names assigned to the workers best qualified to deal with the persons involved. In the light of this systematic canvass the group should meet frequently for prayer and consultation; and, occasionally at least, prayer services should be conducted in homes where the persons who are being sought could be directly and vitally impressed,

This systematic and continued effort may well be made to culminate in a special evangelistic meeting conducted by the pastor or one whom the pastor and the Leaguers may invite to take charge of the services.

GOSPEL MEETINGS.

The Devotional Committee has an important work to do to direct the Leaguers in outside evangelistic work. In near-by churches where services are not frequently held, in schoolhouses in communities which are deprived of gospel meetings, in jails, in workhouses, in county homes, on the street, in cottages, in mission churches, in social settlements—here, yonder, everywhere Leaguers should be constantly going to and from making Christ known to men.

If the devotional meeting is held on Sunday evening just before the sermon hour, what plan is better than to send one group to the evening service, another to a mission chapel, another to a cottage meeting, another to a street corner? Try it!

IV. Public Worship.

However faithfully Epworth Leaguers may attend the devotional meeting of the Chapter, they are *not excused from attendance upon the public worship of the congregation*. On the contrary, their presence in the devotional meeting implies that they will not be absent from their places in the congregational services, for the devotional meeting *aims to fit them for usefulness in the public worship of the Church*. The Chapter whose members do not form the habit of regular and punctual and helpful attendance upon the preaching services needs to be examined for a very grave fault.

Epworth Leaguers ought to have a definite and worthy

part in the congregational services, especially in the evening service. Here are some of the ways they may help: (1) By sitting in a body in the auditorium during the service. (2) By joining heartily in the singing. (3) By speaking to strangers and seeing that they have books. (4) By giving undivided attention to the sermon. (5) By being ready to give helpful testimony. (6) By furnishing a chorus for the evening service. (7) By performing the service of ushers and receiving the regular offering. (8) By being reverently in the spirit of prayer.

By a policy of this kind cheerfully and constantly practiced the Leaguers may render *invaluable aid to their pastor*. The thought of giving support to his heavily burdened hands will produce a deep and abiding joy.

DEVOTIONAL TOPICS, 1913.

FIRST QUARTER.

Study Scheme in Each Month.

A Study of the Life and Character of Jesus.

A Study in Personal Religion.

A Study in the Social Teaching of Jesus.

A Study in Missions or Some Special Topic.

January 5. (Morning Watch.) The Prayer Life of Jesus. Matt. xiv. 23, xv. 36; Mark i. 35; Luke iii. 21, v. 16, vi. 12; John xvii.

12. The Key of Good Will and the Door of Knowledge. John vii. 17; Matt. xii. 46-50; John iv. 34.

19. The Social Goal: "In Earth as It Is in Heaven." Matt. vi. 10, xx. 25-27; Gal. vi. 2.

26. (Missionary.) Our Proposed Mission in Africa. Isa. xviii. 1-17.

February 2. The Temptation of Jesus. Matt. iv. 1; Luke xxii. 28; Heb. iv. 15.

9. (Negro Education, Paine College.) The Burden of the Strong. Acts xx. 35; Rom. xv. 1; 1 John iv. 7.

16. Hearing Plus Obedience. Matt. vii. 24; Jas. i. 22-24, iv. 17.
23. The Social Motive: Love. Mark xii. 28-34; Luke vi. 27; John xiii. 34; Rom. xiii. 10; 1 John ii. 17.
- March 2.* The Labors of Jesus. Mark i. 14; Luke x. 1; Matt. xii. 15; Mark xiv. 32-34.
9. The Nature of the Kingdom. Luke viii. 4-18; Matt. xiii. 24-30; Mark iv. 26-29; Matt. xiii. 31-33, 34, 47-50.
10. The Social Material: My Neighbor. Luke x. 25-37; Jas. ii. 14-17.
23. (Easter.) The Birth of a Great Hope. Luke xxiv. 13-35.
30. (A Study of the Foreign Work of the League.) The Sheep of the Other Fold. John x. 16; Matt. xxviii. 18-20.

SECOND QUARTER.

- April 6.* The Indignation of Jesus. Matt. xxiii. 11-39.
13. Jesus's Doctrine of Christian Experience. John xiv. 16, 17, 21, 23, xv. 26, xvi. 7.
20. Money a Social Instrument. Matt. xix. 16-26, vi. 19-34; Luke x. 33-35; 1 Tim. vi. 10.
27. (Missionary.) The Italian in America. Eph. xi. 18-22.
- May 4.* The Sympathy of Jesus. John xi. 31-36; Mark vi. 30-46; Matt. ix. 36, 38.
11. Jesus's Doctrine of His Own Person. Matt. ix. 6, xxii. 41-45; John v. 17-23, x. 30-33, xii. 45, xiv. 9.
18. (Anniversary Day.) The Greater Work Ahead. John v. 20, xiv. 12.
25. The Social Impulse: Human Fellowship. John ii. 1, 2, xiii. 15; Mark iii. 14; Luke vii. 34, 36, xix. 1-10.
- June 1.* The Cross of Jesus. Matt. xxvi. 27, 28; Heb. xii. 2.
8. (Christian Culture.) The Complete Man. Col. iv. 12; 2 Tim. iii. 17.
15. The Cross of Every Man. Matt. xvi. 24, 25, x. 34-39; John xii. 24, 25.
22. The Social Basis of the Last Judgment. Matt. xxv. 31-46.

29. The Price of Power. Matt. xx. 20-22; Luke ix. 24, v. 11.

THIRD QUARTER.

July. God's Instruments of Moral Order.

6. The State and Its Service to God. Rom. xiii. 1-7; 1 Pet. ii. 13-17.
 13. The Church and Its Claim upon Our Love and Obedience. Acts ii. 41; Eph. iv. 11-16; Gal. vi. 1; Rom. xv. 1-3.
 20. (Family Prayer Circle.) The Home and How to Make It Better. Eph. vi. 2; Ps. ci. 2; 1 Cor. xiii. 4, 5.
 27. (Missionary.) Forty Years in Japan. Acts xi. 12-18.

August. Four Cardinal Doctrines.

3. The Doctrine of Sin. Rom. vi. 23; Mark vii. 21; Luke xiii. 27; Gal. vi. 7, 8.
 10. The Doctrines of Redemption through Christ. Rom. v. 6-10; 1 Cor. i. 17, 18, xv. 3; Gal. i. 3, 4; Eph. i. 7; 1 Pet. i. 18, 19.
 17. The Doctrine of Faith. Heb. xi. 1; Rom. v. 1; Eph. ii. 8; 1 Tim. i. 5.
 24. The Doctrine of "a New Creature." Eph. iv. 20-24, ii. 10; Gal. vi. 15; Rom. xii. 2.
 31. (Missionary.) The Present Opportunity in China. Isa. xlix. 8-13.

September. Four Typical Experiences.

7. (League Rally Day.) The Inner Conflict. Rom. vii. 14-viii. 2.
 14. Efficient Sorrow. 2 Cor. vii. 9-11; Ps. li. 17; Jas. iv. 8-10.
 21. (Bible Study Rally Day.) The Coming of the Spirit of Sonship. Rom. v. 5, viii. 9-16; Gal. iv. 6.
 28. The Constraining Love of Christ. Rom. viii. 35-39; 2 Cor. v. 14; Eph. iii. 17-19; Phil. iii. 7, 8.

FOURTH QUARTER.

October. Danger Signals: Beware!

5. (Christian Stewardship.) The Sin of Parsimony. Jas. ii. 16; 1 John iii. 17; Matt. xxvi. 6-9.
 12. Sins of the Tongue. Jas. iii. 2-12; Prov. xv. 1; Matt. xii. 25-36.

19. (Mission Study Rally Day.) A False Basis of Social Regard. Jas. ii. 1-9.
 26. The Sin of Being a Stumblingblock. Rom. xiv. 13-20; 2 Cor. viii. 9-13.

November. Strive after These:

2. A Clean Mind. Phil. ii. 15, iv. 8, 9.
 9. (Church Extension Day.) The Current Program of Home Missions. Isa. liv. 2, 3.
 16. Walking in Love. Eph. iv. 25-v. 2; John xiii. 35.
 23. (Thanksgiving.) Some Apostolic Rejoicings. Rom. v. 2; Phil. i. 12, ii. 17; Col. i. 24; Jas. i. 2.
 30. The Grace of Steadfastness. Jas. v. 7, 8; 2 Cor. vi. 4-10.

December. Holiday Meditations.

7. The Religion of Good Deeds. Jas. i. 27, ii. 14-18.
 14. The Grace of Generosity. Rom. xvi. 1, 2; Phil. iv. 15-17.
 21. The First Christmas Gift. John iii. 16.
 28. (Retrospect.) Have I Fought a Good Fight? 2 Tim. iv. 6-8.

THE SECOND DEPARTMENT.

Purpose.—The purpose of the Second Department is (1) to *give relief* to the oppressed, the afflicted, and the needy; (2) to *seek to prevent* evils which arise from causes that may be removed; and (3) to lend a helping hand in all worthy undertakings as opportunity may be found.

Program.—In accordance with its aim, this department becomes responsible for the program outlined below.

I. Relief.

1. In its work of *relief* it will take account, first, of the *sick*. Let the Second Vice President and his committee make it a point to let no case of sickness exist in the community without their knowledge. If the sick person belongs to their Church, of course they will take

steps to relieve him. But even if the affliction is in a family not connected with our Church, the Second Department may find necessity for offering assistance. And besides this, it is important to know about every case of sickness in the community in order that proper steps may be taken to discover causes and exterminate disease.

The simplest and least costly form of service to the sick is to show interest in them by calling upon them or by sending them a token of loving thoughtfulness. Even if admission to the patient's room is denied, still it is worth a great deal to call at the house and inquire how the sufferer does. A fragrant flower, a simple book, or a dish of delicate flavor makes an acceptable evidence of the anxious concern felt. In mild illness and during convalescence the call may be extended to a visit, when by bright conversation or the careful reading of a book or magazine the hours may be filled with profitable enjoyment.

A less convenient and more costly way of ministering to the sick is to *wait upon them*. Not every family is able to employ a trained nurse. The committee of the Second Department should be able to supply helpers to watch by the sick bed, and thus relieve the family of the afflicted person of the terrible strain often imposed upon them.

If it should be thought unwise or prove to be impossible for the Leaguers to give personal assistance in such cases, the Second Department ought at any rate to provide a trained nurse for such time as may be necessary. Another way to help is to assume a part of the expense for drugs and the services of a physician. Especially in the summer time no more accepta-

ble relief can be offered than to provide a sufficient quantity of ice to make the patient comfortable.

2. *Strangers* are constantly in need of relief. There are transients who have been unfortunate, traveling men who are lonesome and tempted, and visitors who ought to receive at our hands Christian courtesy. Then there are new families come to town. How acceptable is something hot to go on the table for the first meal! How sorely hearts are yearning for the familiar greeting of old friends left behind! How completely exposed to designing men and unkind critics the new arrivals are! Then is the "nick o' time" in which to show the Christian heart and win a friend for Christ. "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."

3. There are *overworked* persons whose load may be lightened by a little unselfish kindness. The tired mother, who has not put her foot outside of the gate the whole week, would be overjoyed if she could attend a single religious service on Sunday. Who will offer to help her get the house ready and then stay with the children while she goes?

There is a clerk or a bookkeeper or a merchant whose duties are crushing the higher life out of him. Who will offer to relieve him of some of the burdensome details, if only for an hour, in order that he may get a long, deep breath out of doors?

There are children criminally overburdened. Who will make an effort to release them from unnatural toil? Who will give them a chance to play under the trees and wander among the flowers in the meadow?

The spirit of friendliness will discover many needs and devise as many ways to meet them.

FLOWER AND OTHER MISSIONS.

The Epworth League has discovered the immense possibilities in flowers as a ministry. The Social Service Department is counseled to have a "flower day" weekly, fortnightly, or monthly, when flowers are to be sent to their Chapter room, to be carried to the poor and the sick, and to be placed in the prisons and hospitals. Every city offers opportunities more or less inviting for this work, as also for special mission work of other sorts. If possible, open a mission school for poor boys, newsboys, factory boys, and others, and let your flower mission play its part. If this does not open, appoint a "mission day" for general visitation and work amongst the poor, the sick, the bare bread-winners, the Christless and Churchless, not forgetting the rich who may not know God. Your phaëtons, carriages, surreys, and your street car book, as well as your flower offerings, can be made to play an important part. Take the invalid, the sick child, or the tired mother out to the country for a drive. Bless and you shall receive a blessing.

II. Prevention.

This is more difficult than relief. To set down a list of a few of the evils against which Epworth Leaguers need to protest loudly and oppose with all their might will convince any one of the correctness of the statement: The liquor traffic, social impurity, the white slave traffic, bad housing, bad sanitation, contagious diseases, oppression of children and women in mills and mines, employment of boys and youths in immoral businesses, vote-buying and vote-selling, cruelty to animals, injustice, fraud, and trickery in trade.

To mitigate these evils, to check them, to combat them, to banish them—this is the big task of the Epworth League through its Social Service Committee. It is clear that much more is required than simply to distribute alms and try to allay physical misery.

How to prevent evil? Four things are necessary to success: First, *adequate instruction* in subjects relating to the problem. Second, *fearless investigation* of conditions. Third, *publicity* in regard to evils known to exist and their causes. Fourth, conscientious *effort* to do what appears in the light of all the facts necessary to be done.

III. Coöperation.

The Second Department is the *helping hand* of the League. To aid in an undertaking already begun may be entirely as meritorious as to be the originator of the scheme. The chief value of the young people to the Church will often lie in their ability to take hold and help *without being told to do so*. The Second Vice President and his committee may be a standing committee on pastor's aid. Through their watchful efforts the League may succeed in taking heavy burdens off the shoulders of the minister; indeed, they may keep scores of duties from ever coming into his hands at all. By supplying him with exact information concerning conditions in his charge they may greatly simplify his task. They may do much visiting on his behalf.

Then there are the Junior League, the Boys' League, the Sunday school, the missionary societies, public charities, civic clubs, temperance organizations, mission settlements, and night schools—these all need greatly to be supported and improved. Will anybody help? Those Epworth Leaguers who live in a town or city where there is a deaconess or social settlement

workers have a specially fine advantage, for they may associate themselves with the trained worker in various employments and so learn by watching the master work.

In all these endeavors it is important to maintain without exception a spirit of sincere and lofty friendliness.

THE THIRD DEPARTMENT.

Purpose.

The purpose of the Third Department is to *improve the social powers* of young people by developing their intellects and broadening their sympathies. Real social life is impossible without some degree of intellectual improvement. A common interest among young people, be it a book, a person, or an adventure, furnishes a basis of fellowship. To multiply the common interests of any group is to enrich and elevate their social life. "Social" means companionable. The ability to make himself *all things to all men* was perhaps the most significant trait in the character of the apostle Paul. Conversation depends upon ideas possessed in common by a number of people. The more ideas, the more freely will the talk flow. Hence the Third Department fails embarrassingly in its attempt to conduct "socials" unless it diligently seeks to stimulate, nourish, and direct the intellectual life.

Program.

What things ought the Third Department to try to do?

I. INTELLECTUAL ACTIVITIES.

1. Conduct classes in (1) Church history, doctrine, and literature, including hymnology; (2) social betterment; (3) literature, classical and current.

2. Conduct reading circles—a less formal, careful, and thorough method than the Study Class, but very desirable where the class is impracticable.

3. Maintain libraries.

4. Present public programs in the nature of (1) popular discussions of lively subjects in short talks or well-prepared papers, (2) formal debates between chosen teams, (3) a practical lecture course, (4) musicales.

II. SOCIAL ACTIVITIES.

1. Conduct general socials.

2. Encourage group socials.

3. Provide opportunity for social intercourse, etc., for those who are socially untrained and deprived of the advantages of social diversion.

4. Take oversight of the *amusements* of the Leaguers.

How to Carry Out the Program.

I. INTELLECTUAL ACTIVITIES.

Study Class.

1. The textbook. Choose an interesting and at the same time instructive *textbook*. Some of those selected and prepared by the Central Office will very likely be found to satisfy the situation.

2. Secure a competent leader for the class. Not by any means is an extraordinary person required, but rather one of average intellectual equipment who will himself *master the textbook* and gain a *working knowledge* of the reference books mentioned.

3. At the next literary meeting of the Chapter let the Study Class be proposed and members enrolled. The book should be exhibited, together with the reference volumes, the subject outlined, and an explanation of the plan of study given.

4. After completing the enrollment, the time and place of meeting should be fixed.

5. The class hour should include the following features: (1) Opening prayer; (2) assignments of work for the next lesson; (3) statement of aim or central thought of the lesson; (4) reports on assignments given at last meeting; (5) general discussion; (6) summary by leader.

Reading Circles.

The reading circle may be formed without taking all the steps indicated above. Invite a selected group of young people to meet the Literary Committee at some convenient time and place. A private home is desirable. Be prepared to suggest a wholesome, *attractive* book to be read. One of the reading course books selected and published by the Central Office may be chosen. Exhibit the book. Invite suggestions as to other books. One of several methods of conducting the circle may be chosen. The group may meet every week and hear the chapters read by the same reader, or different persons may be designated to read each week. Or the circle may meet only fortnightly or monthly to discuss a book that has been read by the members in their homes. Or a single person may be asked to read a book and review the volume before the entire group. One or more books could be treated in this way at every meeting.

Libraries.

The Third Department is charged with building up and maintaining libraries of useful information. There are several kinds of libraries: (1) The stationary library, with reading room kept open at regular hours; (2) the circulating library; (3) the envelope library.

Members of the Chapter clip interesting stories and helpful articles from newspapers and periodicals, and place the material in large envelopes, carefully labeled as to contents, which may be available for those who are inclined to read.

Study Courses and Reading Courses.

The study course has yielded some of the best results of League work in times past and, though temporarily neglected, is now again in demand. The books of the study course thus far published are "Introducing Men to Christ," by W. D. Weatherford, and "The Story of the Old Testament," by Frank Seay. To these were added for the present year's study course Dr. Chappell's excellent book just from the press, "Studies in the Life of John Wesley," which together constitute the study course for the year. Price per set, \$1.50.

Besides the study course, a reading course, less difficult and designed for popular use, has been prepared. The books of the reading course are: "Four Princes," "Back to Oxford," "A Betrayed Trust," and "Korean Sketches." Price for the set, \$2, postpaid.

A careful, industrious, and studentlike reading of these books will result in immediate and permanent benefit. A certificate will be issued each year to those who complete the study course. After four of these certificates have been secured, a diploma will be issued to the holder. This diploma, though not in any sense meant to take the rank of a collegiate letter of degrees, will nevertheless mean much, and will carry with it an honorable distinction. The fact that the applicant has diligently read the course must be certified to by the Vice President of the Department of Culture and Recreation in the League Chapter to which the applicant

belongs. He and his committee are to superintend the reading classes. Blank applications for diplomas will be ready for distribution as early as April of each year. The literary work outlined for the Leagues in our course is superb. It compresses much knowledge into small space. It must prove an intellectual and spiritual stimulus to those who read it. Knowledge is power; ignorance is weakness—crime. The educative effect of the League course cannot but be of immense significance to the future life and thought of the Church.

A Way to Read the Course.

1. Buy the set of books completed at once. This may be done by an individual Leaguer, by a circle in the League, or by the Chapter. The first of these plans is the best. The second plan, that of purchase by a circle in the League, is the next to be recommended. Let three members of the League club as a reading circle and divide amongst themselves the purchase cost of the books. The books are to be kept strictly within the circle until finished. This is the first step in carrying out this plan.

2. There are nine months in the reading year—the time from October 1 to June 30. This gives ten weeks to each of the three books. Calculate the number of hours and minutes that will be required to finish a book in ten weeks. (The average is only ten minutes for each working day.) Then number the three members of your circle: one, two, three, four. Let number *one* take the first book, number *two* the second, number *three* the third, and number *four* the fourth, following the numbering of the books in the list.

3. At the end of the ten weeks meet and exchange

books, number one taking the second book, number two the third, number three the fourth, and number four the first. At the beginning of the second period number one will have the third book, etc., until the circuit will have been completed. Even if the Chapter buys several sets of books, so as to form a sort of circulating library, these circles should be formed for the sake of order and to secure systematic reading.

4. Before the exchange of books each reader may give his fellow a good start by running over the contents of the book just finished by himself.

Let our young readers understand that system is important; though, if absolute system is impracticable, the nearest approach to it is advised. Read all you can, and think constantly and seriously. No other investment ever made is equal to the investment in a good book. The man who knows what is in the books has all his competitors at least at equal advantage, and is without doubt far better equipped than one who has neglected the acquisition of knowledge. The true nobility of the earth is that whose fellowships gather about the primacy of books. "A good book wherein to read is better far than gold." The League course opens the door to a treasure house of true riches for the young man and the young woman who are willing.

Public Meetings.

A suggestion may be ventured in regard to the programs to be presented before the public. First, as to *variety*, several kinds of public meetings have been suggested above; second, as to *preparation*, the Council should determine early in the year how frequently public meetings shall be attempted.

Then the committee of the Third Department ought

to choose a series of subjects for discussion at these meetings, determining definitely also in the beginning just what form the discussions shall take, whether an address or a conference or a debate shall fall upon this occasion or that.

At least two weeks before it is to take place the literary meeting should be thoroughly advertised. It should be stated what the theme will be and who will take part on the program. Special features of the occasion ought to be made conspicuous.

The committee may plan for a series of lectures which, besides the intellectual and moral stimulus they give, may be made to add a neat sum to the treasury. Capable lecturers may be secured in the persons of ministers, schoolmen, and professional men who will not require large recompense for their services. The lectures should be given in the Sunday school room or a hall free of rent or in the church auditorium. The price of admission should be popular. One hundred people at ten cents is far better than fifty at twenty-five when you consider that the lecture course is designed, not to make money or to influence a select few, but to reach the many.

If objection is raised to charging admission to an event in the church, then a silver offering may be received at the door or during the progress of the program.

School of Methods.

Both in the separate Chapters and in the Conferences and Unions the "School of Methods" should be used. This consists of a regular and systematic study of *how, where, and when* to work. Let the Chapter meet quarterly as a "school," and take the committees through

the details of the service which falls to them. For instance, inquire *how* to conduct a prayer meeting. Collect plans and present the experiences of others. The *Epworth Era* teems with these. Take the Social Service Committee through a drill. Imagine the committee on a visit to the hospital, the bethel, or to visit a mother with a sick child, or an invalid, or the members of the League and Church—what to carry, what to say, what to do. Drill the ushers for the church, and the Lookout Committee to stand at the door of the Chapter room.

In the Conference and Union the plan may be widened a little and a "Model League" conducted so as to illustrate all the work of a Chapter—the qualities needed in the several officers, the manner of conducting the departments, and especially such methods as will help the Department of Culture and Recreation and the "Bible Circles."

II. SOCIAL ACTIVITIES.

The strictly social feature of the Third Department's work may recur more frequently than the avowedly intellectual. For this reason it is imperative that conscientious attention be given this part of the department's program.

The general social is the means by which the Epworth League makes its widest and most promiscuous appeal. Here certain points need to be carefully guarded.

1. The League social is intended to *improve* the social efficiency of young people. None can be excluded, therefore, on account of lack of refinement or want of culture. It is the business of the social to give these things.

2. Amusements and employments should be especially designed to make those present forget themselves or lose self-consciousness in unfeigned interest in what is going on. Exercises, games, etc., must be adapted to the capacities of those who attend. But the object of improving and enriching the social life must not be forgotten.

3. Care should be exercised to prevent the "class spirit" from marring the occasion. Social "sets" should not be tolerated. The tendency to snobbery cannot be allowed in any degree. Here, if anywhere, young people may learn how to *adjust* themselves to each other.

4. The question sometimes arises as to whether certain kinds of young people ought to be invited to the League social. Without going into details, the suggestion may be ventured that wisdom may sometimes require that special efforts be made to meet the social needs of persons who have made themselves unacceptable. A stag banquet, for instance, has in some cases been found to be the only practicable way of dealing socially with certain classes of young men.

The social *group* has not been properly emphasized in the League. Vice Presidents may entertain their committees in their homes; leaders, their helpers; departmental associates, each other; the pastor and the President, the Council. Well-planned group socials in private homes will tell wonderfully on the general tone of the whole Chapter.

The Literary Social.

(1) It is a *social* meeting; make yourself agreeable. It is a *literary* meeting; talk seriously—that is, discuss serious and dignified topics, books, and important events, past and passing. It is a *religious* meeting (all

League meetings are); let a religious tone pervade everything.

(2) As to your program: Have an evening with a great author; an essay or essays on his works and character, with quotations from his writings by members of the League. Or take a literary period, as the Victorian, and discuss some of its distinguishing works or a few of its typical authors. This plan will never wear out.

(3) Take a nation, modern or ancient, discuss its customs, religion, history, peoples, and its end or future. (The Leaguers may add interest to this by wearing simple imitations of costumes, or otherwise in their dress suggesting national manners.)

(4) Some Leagues at their literary social read a monthly or fortnightly *Chronicle* or *Record*, a pen-written newspaper contributed to by all the Leaguers, an editor having been previously appointed. This will yield much pleasure, and is greatly profitable in a literary way.

(5) You can make a good evening by discussing the editorials and contributions in a given number of the *Epworth Era*. Call it the "*Era* Evening."

(6) Make a "Motto Evening" by having everybody come bearing or wearing some motto or parable in symbol. The work of studying out these mottoes and proverbs will greatly amuse and instruct.

(7) Have an evening with the martyrs (as Huss, Fox, Cranmer, Savonarola); with eminent Methodists and other Christian heroes (as Bunyan, Knox, à Kempis, Fénelon, Wyclif, and Carey). Short essays and sketches dealing with their lives will prove an inspiration.

(8) A "debating club" will furnish endless enjoyment and bring astonishing benefit. Select a subject,

as, "Should Laity Rights in the Church Be Granted to Women?" Divide your League into two companies, appoint an umpire, and debate in the old fashion. Make it a serious but pleasant affair.

(9) Have a "Masters' Evening" and discuss great paintings and fine statuary. Have talks on architecture—its schools and ages—study some typical building, as Milan, St. Peter's, St. Paul's, the Parthenon, the Capitol. In like manner have an evening with precious jewels—"Historic Gems," their names, value, owners.

(10) Have a symposium consisting of a series of short essays on various aspects of the burning questions of the day, such as the Panama Canal and recognition of the Republic of China, and afterwards have the meeting open for discussion.

(11) Try an evening in natural history—with flowers and leaves, birds, insects, and fishes. An evening with the microscope. Invest in one. If in reach of even a small glass or observatory, try to arrange for an evening with the telescope. Is not the world full of lessons?

(12) Best of all, have an evening with the Bible—the patriarchs, the judges, the kings, the prophets, the men and women of the age of Jesus. Have an evening with Moses the orator, one with Job the poet, another with Daniel the philosopher. What Oriental coloring, what beauty and majesty gather about these!

Extension Work.

The Third Department committee may help inexperienced young people in disadvantaged places to conduct helpful social gatherings among themselves. The department may also arrange concerts for halls or chapels in communities where such advantages are meager.

DEPARTMENT OF MISSIONARY WORK.

I. The Place of Missions in the Epworth League.

Christian activity must have a missionary side, else it becomes selfish and unchristian. The Epworth League needs the missionary objective to call forth its best energies and to develop its highest life. While there was no provision in the original form of the Epworth League Constitution for the missionary work, in no line has the League made such advances as in this. After 1898 a subcommittee on missions had charge of missionary work in the League until 1904, when the Epworth League Board, in order to more adequately provide for its control and promotion, created a Department of Missionary Work, known as the Fourth Department. The action extends to both Junior and Senior Leagues.

The section relating to this department in the Constitution of the Senior League is as follows: "The Department of Missionary Work shall promote an interest in, and disseminate intelligence of, the work of missions at home and abroad; provide for Mission Study Classes, the collection of a missionary library and other helps; appoint leaders and provide for the monthly missionary meeting; and collect, take charge of, and disburse money for missionary purposes, under the direction of the pastor and Cabinet."

II. Organization of the Departmental Committee.

The Department of Missionary Work calls for the election of a *Fourth Vice President*. He shall have appointed, and preside over, a committee of three or more, who shall assist him in all the missionary work of the League. It is necessary that great care should

be exercised in choosing the Fourth Vice President and in the selection of his committee, since this department is responsible for some of the most difficult and most important work that the League has to do.

The members of the committee should, as far as possible, have the following *qualifications*:

1. They should have a genuine interest in the cause of missions at home and abroad.
2. They should be students of missions, or at least be willing to become such, and if practicable to become the nucleus for the Mission Study Class.
3. They should be influential and representative members of the League, in order that they may be effective in interesting others in missions.

SYSTEM ESSENTIAL.

Nothing worth while succeeds by accident. If missions in the League is to be a success, the Fourth Vice President and his committee must make it so. They must plan wisely and execute vigorously. As soon as the committee of this department has been appointed, let the Fourth Vice President call the members together to plan for the work.

They should first consider very carefully the character and extent of their duties, and make a thorough investigation of the missionary status of the League. They should then map out as definitely as possible a policy for the year—what they will do regarding the Mission Study Class; what they will undertake in the way of securing a missionary library for the League, or what books they will add to the library that they have; what missionary periodicals they will keep on file for the use of the League; how they will provide for the monthly missionary meetings; what missionary

money should be contributed by the League, and what method of raising it should be followed. Of course much will have to be submitted to the whole League for final decision, but the committee should fix its own ideal and then work toward it. Thereafter the Fourth Vice President should call his committee together regularly at least once a month for special prayer, to check up the policy and keep the work of the department well in hand, and to prepare a careful report for the monthly business meeting.

To facilitate the work, the chairman of the department may assign some special division of the work to each member of the committee. It will be well to have enough members on the Missionary Committee to allow the appointing of special subcommittees from their number, or else to have the members of the committee act as chairmen of subcommittees appointed from the membership of the League. There should be the following subcommittees: The Study Class Committee; the Library Committee; the Committee on Periodicals, Leaflets, Maps, Charts, etc. (the last two may be combined in small Chapters); the Program Committee, to provide leaders and programs for the monthly meeting; and a Finance Committee, although the missionary funds are to be kept and disbursed by the League Treasurer. The work assigned thus to various subcommittees should be carefully reviewed as a whole by the Missionary Committee at each of its regular monthly meetings.

III. The Work of the Department.

I. THE MISSION STUDY CLASS.

(1) *Its Importance.*—To wisely use the present-day missionary opportunity, our need is a Church educated

in the great gospel and facts of missions. We have relied too long upon agitation. Only systematic study of missions can bring about the desired result. Education is more than agitation, and implies the textbook, the teacher, the class, class hour, study, and instruction. All this is provided for in the plans for mission study.

The occasional missionary sermon or lecture or newspaper article, as strong and valuable as these agencies are, can no more educate a generation in missions than an occasional lecture on some scientific or literary theme can furnish a university training. It is needful that we organize for systematic mission study.

The Study Class is the most effective means for the missionary education of the members of the League. It promotes thoroughness, stimulates interest, and kindles missionary ardor. The Fourth Vice President and his committee should seek to develop competent leadership through the promotion of a systematic study of missions. The aim should be to make the whole League missionary in spirit, and the place to kindle the missionary fire is in the Study Class group. Every Chapter should organize at least one class. If others cannot be enlisted, let the committee constitute the class.

(2) *How to Begin.*—Study Classes do not generate spontaneously. The first thing that is needed is some one who believes in the study of missions and who is willing to work for the organization of a class. We can never give up the study of our work until it ceases, and it will never cease if we study and know its conditions, needs, and development. There is no way of knowing but by study.

(3) *How to Organize the Class.*—Send for a "Study Class Manual;" price, five cents. After you have read

it carefully, begin with personal work; ask some of your friends to meet with you for study. After a personal canvass, announce in the League and prayer meeting that a Mission Study Class is being organized, and ask all who are interested in the study of missions to remain for a few minutes after the meeting. Give to every one present a slip of blank paper. Explain the plan of the Study Class work as outlined in the "Manual," and state that textbooks and helps are available. After explaining the aim and plan at a meeting called for that purpose, ask those who wish to join a class to write their names on the slips of paper. If too many for one class to enroll, divide them into classes of ten or twelve. Decide on the textbook. Find how many textbooks are needed, and have them on hand for the first meeting of the class. Send in your enrollment card to the Educational Secretary of the Board of Missions.

(4) *When to Begin.*—Begin now. When you have finished reading this article, send for the "Manual" giving full information about Study Classes, and write to E. H. Rawlings, 810 Broadway, Nashville, Tenn., who will assist you in every way possible in organizing and conducting the work.

(5) *One Sunday each fall is set apart as Mission Study Rally Day.* The missionary meeting for this day, as indicated by the topic, should be devoted to a consideration of the "study of missions"—the need and obligation of the Christian young people in the matter of missionary intelligence. An enrollment should be made at this meeting of all those who desire to become members of the Study Class. It would be well to do this even though, for some reason, it may not be practicable to begin the work of the class immediately.

Whenever it can be done, however, the organization of the class should be completed and the work begun without delay. The mission study textbook will be carefully selected and announced from year to year. For "Prospectus of Mission Study Courses," write to Dr. Rawlings, as above directed. Enrollment card is sent with this prospectus, and special helps for teachers are furnished free to those who return this card.

2. THE MISSIONARY LIBRARY.

Since the fundamental work of the Fourth Department is educational, the missionary library becomes an essential. The quickened missionary spirit must come through a knowledge of the facts as they are; through a realization of the living, throbbing issues of to-day; through a vision of the Christ in the forefront of missionary endeavor; and by means of a great faith in him as the Living One, ever leading on his followers to world conquest. While the Bible is the world's greatest missionary book, and while its principles are of universal application, we need also to know modern missionary facts and conditions. The Bible itself becomes most vital when it is read in the light of present-day demonstrations of the Spirit. The missionary movement becomes a living movement when we realize that the acts of the apostles are being continued in our own day, when in the world-wide opportunity and need we hear the Master still saying, "Go." If we are to come into fullest sympathy with his loving purpose, we must not be ignorant of the burden that still rests upon his heart, of the needs of those whom he is still seeking to save, and of the noble efforts of the men and women who are truly representing their Lord in this work.

The League must have missionary books. What books? The judgment of those who know should be the guide. It is to help in the choice of the best missionary books, as well as to put the price of these books within reach, that the two standard Epworth League Missionary Libraries have been provided. "Missionary Campaign Library No. 1" is now out of print, but "Missionary Campaign Library No. 2" is still available. The books have been selected very carefully with reference to the needs and tastes of the young people. The aim has been to interest as well as to instruct. Here are biographies and books of adventure, descriptions of countries and people, histories, lectures, convention reports—twenty volumes. These libraries are uniform in binding, and at the publishers' price cost over \$20; but through a special provision they may be obtained at one-half price, or \$10 for the set of twenty.

Even if a Mission Study Class cannot be organized, the regular mission study textbooks should by all means be in every Epworth League library and available for the members. For general private reading, as well as for class study, they are unsurpassed. For each of these courses there is selected, in addition to the textbook, a reference library of from seven to ten volumes. These books are very useful in more extended studies than the textbooks make possible, and in the preparation of papers or talks on assigned topics. The textbooks sell at the uniform price of 35 cents in paper or 50 cents in cloth, carriage extra. The libraries are sold at about one-half publishers' price—viz., \$5 per set, carriage extra. "Prospectus" of the mission study textbooks, lists of books included in reference libraries, and a new catalogue of missionary sup-

plies for the Sunday school, containing a list of miscellaneous missionary books, will be sent on application to Dr. E. H. Rawlings, 810 Broadway, Nashville, Tenn.

Here are some good suggestions regarding the library:

(1) Keep the interest in the library alive by adding now and then a new book.

(2) Make constant use of the library in the preparation of the monthly meeting. Let the librarian hunt up the references in the library bearing on the missionary topic, and give them to the leader as soon as he is appointed; or when any special topic is assigned for work in the Study Class, let the librarian get the books of reference and put them into the hands of those who are to do the special work. The use of the books for monthly meetings and for the Study Class must be counted on as the standard way for keeping the library in constant use.

(3) Besides this, by calling special attention to them in public meetings, by securing pledges to read certain books or parts of them, and by personal request the young people may be induced to read the biographies and more interesting books of the library. Other methods will be discovered or devised.

(4) Let it be the prayerful and persistent purpose of the committee to make the young people familiar with the facts and principles of missions as contained in the library.

3. THE MONTHLY MISSIONARY MEETING.

This is the meeting for the general missionary education of the League. Chapters having a live Mission Study Class and a missionary library which they have learned how to use will be able to make the monthly missionary meeting one of the most spiritual, interest-

ing, instructive, and largely attended of the League gatherings.

(1) The secret of success in a missionary meeting lies chiefly in thorough and prayerful preparation. The Program Committee should therefore appoint the leader at least one month in advance, and should then plan with the leader for the program. Sometimes it may be well to make out the whole list of missionary leaders six months or a year in advance. If the leader desires other members of the League to assist him, the parts to be contributed by each should be determined, and the committee should stand ready to furnish any of these participants with the required literature for preparation. The committee should assure itself several days in advance of the meeting that all necessary arrangements have been made for the success of the program.

(2) The topics for the monthly meeting will be indicated on the Topic Card, and several references to missionary books will be given. An outline of each missionary program will be found each month in the *Epworth Era*.

(3) Remember that it is a positive injury to the cause to have dry, monotonous missionary meetings; and remember, further, that there is no necessity for this. Therefore vary the program, select the hymns in advance, give definite direction to the prayers, make the meeting vital. The committee should regard this meeting as its great opportunity for bringing the young people of the League into line with the Spirit of the kingdom.

4. HELPS FOR THE WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT.

(1) *Periodicals*.—There will be constant need in the preparation of the monthly missionary program and in

the work of the Study class for information regarding current events on the mission field. To supply this, every League should keep on its table several missionary papers. The *Missionary Voice*, an illustrated monthly missionary periodical published by the Board of Missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, will supply information regarding the work of our Church, and the *Missionary Review of the World* will cover the largest field.¹ Order the former from Smith & Lamar, Nashville, Tenn., 50 cents a year, and the latter from Funk & Wagnalls Company, 40-60 East Twenty-Third Street, New York, \$2.50 per year. A complete set of such papers and magazines should be bound at the end of the year and placed in the library for future reference. The *Epworth Era* issues annually a *Mission Study Number*, which will give the latest news and plans for mission study.

(2) *The Annual Report of the Board of Missions*, containing detailed information regarding our mission work, should be kept on the library table. This will be sent free of charge upon application with seven cents postage.

(3) *Leaflets*.—Copies of all the various missionary leaflets issued by the Board of Missions should be available. A complete set of these leaflets can be secured free of charge.

(4) *Programs*.—Missionary programs will be prepared on some field or burning missionary topic from time to time and kept for use by Sunday schools, Epworth Leagues, and any other organizations that may need such programs. These are quite elaborate, but can be shortened and adapted to suit the needs in each particular case. Much time will be given to the preparation of the programs by specialists, and our en-

deavor will be to improve it with each succeeding quarter until it shall afford an ideal presentation in most impressive form of some missionary situation. Two of these programs are now available, one on "Korea" and one on "The Call of the Homeland." Price, 5 cents per copy, 40 cents per dozen, \$2.50 per hundred. To aid the leader in working out interesting and helpful missionary programs for devotional or social meetings, a set of three sample programs can be had for five cents, or for twenty cents twelve programs of the same character will be sent. These have been carefully prepared, and will be found well adapted to the use of the Fourth Department.

(5) *Maps*.—A Missionary Map of the World, 8x12 feet, may be secured. Price, \$4, not postpaid. This, hung in front of the Chapter room, will be a perpetual missionary lesson to the members of the League.

Large Wall Maps, printed in colors on cloth, mounted with wooden rollers at top and bottom: Africa, China, India, Japan and Korea, South America, each, \$1.25; the United States and Mexico, \$1; the Moslem World, 75 cents.

Large Outline Maps of Africa, China, India, Japan and Korea, South America, 28x32 inches. Price, 15 cents each.

Small Colored Maps of Africa, China, India, Japan, Korea, Moslem World, South America, United States. Printed on heavy cardboard; 11x14 inches (Korea, 8x11 inches); intended for individual use. Price, 10 cents each.

Small Outline Maps of Africa, China, India, Japan, Korea, Moslem World, South America, the United States; 11x14 inches (Korea, 8x11 inches); intended for individual use. Price, 15 cents per dozen.

(6) *Pictures* illustrating missionary truths are valuable in any plan of missionary education. These pictures are interesting and instructive for older Leaguers as well as for the Juniors.

(7) *Charts*.—A splendid set of six wall charts, size 36x44 inches, illustrating striking missionary facts, can be secured. Price, \$1.25 per set.

Two sets of mottoes,¹ striking and attractive, four to the set, printed on cloth 27x42 inches, may be had of the Laymen's Missionary Movement, 810 Broadway, Nashville, Tenn. Per set, \$1, prepaid.

A Motto Chart: "The World for Christ in This Generation." Cloth, 27x42. Price, 25 cents, postpaid.

We have also a striking set of missionary chart post cards. Each card is a center shot. Price, 20 cents for set of twelve cards.

(8) *Mottoes*.—A superb set of wall mottoes—great sayings of great missionary heroes and others—has been prepared. They are beautifully printed in large type on heavy paper, illuminated in red and gold. Price, 50 cents for set of six.

A set of three charts prepared by the Laymen's Missionary Movement, presenting the needs and responsibilities of our Church, may be secured. Printed in two and three colors on cloth; size, 27x42. Price, \$1.

(9) The stereopticon lecture is one of the most effective and far-reaching means of missionary education. For the benefit of pastors, the Fourth Department of the League, and others, arrangements have been made whereby specially prepared Southern Methodist lectures on several fields and general lectures on all fields and phases of mission work can be rented at reasonable rates. For full particulars and terms, address the

Christian Lantern Slide and Lecture Bureau, 153 La Salle Street, Chicago.

(10) *Practical Plans*.—The following manuals will be found very helpful in the work of the committee: "Fuel for Missionary Fires," 35 cents; "Fifty Missionary Programs," 35 cents; "Holding the Ropes—Missionary Methods for Workers at Home," \$1 (all by Miss Belle M. Brain); "The Missionary Manual," by Prof. Amos R. Wells, 35 cents; "Effective Missionary Methods," by F. S. Brockman and W. W. Cooper, 25 cents; "The Missionary Meeting in a Young People's Society," paper, 10 cents. Order these through Smith & Lamar, 810 Broadway, Nashville, Tenn.

Cuba Mission Special.

Agreement between the Board of Missions and the Epworth League Board.—It is agreed that the Epworth League shall assume responsibility for raising the entire budget of our Cuba Mission for 1913. The amount of the budget will be fifty thousand dollars. This figure includes advance work as well as the maintenance of existing enterprises.

Appropriation of Funds.—It is agreed that no funds are to be appropriated until they are actually paid in, and that no appropriation shall be made except by the Board of Missions at its annual meeting. If the amount raised by the Leagues does not equal the specified budget of \$50,000, the required balance is to be appropriated out of the regular income of the Board of Missions. If the amount raised by the League is in excess of the specified budget, the surplus shall be devoted to advance work in China.

Relation to Assessments.—It is to be clearly understood that this budget of \$50,000 is to be raised by the

League Chapters as a special missionary offering, apart from the regular assessments against the pastoral charges, and to be credited separately, *so that a charge may not use the amount raised by its Epworth League for Cuba in paying out its regular missionary assessments.* In order, however, to enable Annual Conferences and districts to be listed in the paid-up column, the amounts raised by Leaguers may be included in the aggregate of Annual Conference and District Conference assessments. It is also important to understand that all Leaguers are expected first of all to do their rightful part toward paying the regular assessment against their local Churches, their offerings for the League special being considered over and above these binding obligations.

Below in the form of questions and answers is told all about

THE OFFERING.

What is the Cuba special? It is the undertaking of the Epworth Leagues to raise by special gifts *fifty thousand dollars* with which to carry on the missionary work for our Church in the island of Cuba.

Why should the Epworth League assume this great financial obligation? Because the Board of Missions is so heavily burdened with sustaining our missionaries, Churches, schools, and colleges in the five other foreign mission fields in which we are at work, and in responding to calls for advance work, that its income is short of what is required. If the Epworth League assumes the support of the work of our Church in the Cuba Mission field, the Board of Missions will be able to answer many urgent calls to advance that it must now refuse because of lack of money.

Is there any special fitness in the League's undertaking to support the Cuba Mission rather than any other? This reason: Thirteen years ago the Epworth Leagues provided the money by means of which Bishop Candler was enabled to begin mission work in Cuba. Many of the League Chapters have continued to contribute to the Cuba Mission, and there is an exquisite appropriateness in the League's now undertaking the **entire support of that mission.**

How can a League find out more about Cuba as a mission field and the work of our own Church there? By writing to Dr. E. H. Rawlings, 810 Broadway, Nashville, Tenn., for one free copy of "Our Mission in Cuba," by Bishop Candler, and giving it a careful reading. Better still, purchase a copy of "Advance in the Antilles" (paper, 42 cents; cloth, 57 cents), which is accompanied by a copy of "Our Mission in Cuba," and make a thorough study of both. Best of all, organize a Mission Study Class, and have each member buy his own book.

Who is called upon to raise this special? Every League in the Church is expected to carry its part of this task. Subscriptions are taken in shares at \$10 each, and every League, including the Juniors, can take at least one share; most Chapters can take more than one; not a few can take as many as ten or twenty. Occasionally a League might take a hundred shares, which is as much as the support of a married missionary. An attractive certificate for framing will be furnished to each League reporting its pledge to the Educational Department of the Board of Missions. *All must do their best to succeed in this great undertaking.*

When is this offering to be made? The offering is to

be made for the Conference year closing the last of 1913. But, as always, the earlier the better.

How shall a League go about raising its part of the special? Talk the matter over thoroughly and prayerfully in the meeting of the Council, decide how many shares your Chapter ought to take at ten dollars a share, and work up to that objective. Then begin at once to plan for the meeting in which the special is to be presented. Do not leave the matter at loose ends. Advertise the meeting and get out the best attendance possible. Get to lead the meeting the best person that can be found in the Church or the community. If a missionary is near, have him in the meeting. Plan to present the topic in the liveliest, snappiest way possible, giving to its presentation, as will be found natural and easy, a Cuban turn. Reserve fifteen minutes at the last for taking the offering. Let some one, either the leader, the pastor, or President, or the best person that can be secured, present the plan in a short, earnest plea of about three minutes. Distribute the pledge cards. Now wait in a moment or two of earnest prayer, asking for guidance and help in the offering. Afterwards have the subscription cards signed and placed in the hands of the Fourth Vice President.

But remember that this is but the beginning of the canvass. Let the Missionary Committee or a special committee take the list of League members and go to every one that has not subscribed and ask for a subscription. Advise with the pastor as to how far the canvass should go outside of the League membership. As a rule, in any congregation there are people outside of the League membership who are nevertheless sympathetic with its work and would be glad to help carry its special without lessening their offerings to the regu-

lar missionary funds of the Church. These ought by all means to be seen.

Subscriptions should be taken weekly or in other installments, according to the preference of the subscriber. The ideal way is by the week. Let your committee divide up these subscriptions, two taking the weekly, one the monthly, and one the rest for collection.

Who is responsible? The Missionary Committee, in charge of the Fourth Vice President, is primarily responsible, and should generally direct all the plans for the special, but should constantly consult the President and pastor for counsel and help and invite the Cabinet to conference as frequently as may be necessary.

What supplies for this campaign are available? Subscription cards, collection envelopes, leaflets on our work in Cuba and the leaflet explaining the Cuba special, and one copy of "Our Mission in Cuba" may be had without charge by writing to the Educational Department of the Board of Missions. In ordering state as exactly as possible the number of cards, envelopes, or leaflets needed in your campaign. Copies of "Our Mission in Cuba" may be had at 30 cents per dozen, \$1.25 per fifty, \$2.50 per hundred. Furthermore, attention is especially called to a stereopticon lecture on Cuba. The lecture is handled by Mr. L. F. Swarthout, of Chicago, as our China and Japan lectures have been, lectures and slides being expressed and rented at nominal cost for special exhibitions. The pictures have been made first-hand by our representative. Rev. S. A. Neblett, of the Cuba Mission, prepared the lecture, and it is all arranged with reference to this "Cuba Special" Campaign. For information, rates, etc., address the Christian Lantern Slide and Lecture Bureau, 153 La Salle Street, Chicago, Ill.

What else is necessary besides planning liberally and working diligently in order to raise the Cuba special? Prayer is the most important of all means for accomplishing God's work. *Let all our Leaguers* be included in a covenant of prayer for our Cuba Mission and for the Cuba special.

Have we any reason to believe that the League can succeed in this great undertaking? Last year the Leagues raised for various missionary appeals thirty thousand dollars. By concentration and better organization they can raise fifty thousand. To come under the responsibility of financing our most promising and successful mission field should encourage the Leagues to do greater things than they have ever done before. Let us

“Attempt great things for God;
Expect great things from God.”

What is to be done with the money when it is collected? Remit at once—not waiting until the end of the Conference year—by exchange, postal order, or express order to the Treasurer of your Conference Mission Board, and report to your pastor or hand to your pastor, specifying in either case that it is to be reported on the Cuba special.

Prayer and Missions.

The old Jewish saying, “He prays not at all in whose prayers there is no mention of the kingdom of God,” is also Christian. True Christian prayer does not fall short of fellowship with Jesus in his deepest desire. The Missionary Committee should ever bear in mind that prayer underlies all truly successful missionary work, and it should be the constant endeavor of the

committee to develop a deep prayer life in the League membership. Organization and methods of work are important, but these will be futile without the power. It is yet more important that the young people take hold of the illimitable resources of power that are at their command through prayer.

These suggestions on the promotion of prayer for missions should be helpful.

(1) Present one or more definite objects for missionary prayer at the monthly meeting. Ask as many as will to remember these in their private devotions, then call on some one in the meeting to lead in special prayer for the objects that have been named.

(2) The objects for special prayer may be placed upon a blackboard in view of the whole League, so that those who desire may fix them in memory or copy them. The greatest care should be exercised in making out this list of objects for prayer.

(3) By wise personal effort seek to increase the number of Leaguers who will pray for missions at some regular time each day. Encourage the observance of the "Morning Watch" as a favorable time for missionary prayer.

(4) Circulate among the Christian members of the Chapter by personal method one or more of the following pamphlets:

(a) "Prayer and Missions," Robert E. Speer, 5 cents each.*

(b) "The Secret Prayer Life," John R. Mott, 5 cents each.*

(c) "The Morning Watch," John R. Mott, 5 cents each.*

(d) "With Christ in the School of Prayer," Andrew Murray, 30 cents.†

(e) "The Ministry of Intercession," Andrew Murray, 75 cents.†

(f) "The Still Hour," Austin Phelps, 60 cents and \$1.†

Training Conferences.

Almost every League Chapter feels the need of more competent leadership, and there is a growing demand for the more careful training of leaders in the State Conference and other League gatherings. Especially is there need of this in the missionary work of the League.

Each local Chapter should most loyally support every movement for the training of its leaders. By sending to these training conferences and rallies a few capable and conscientious delegates, who will receive an enlarged spiritual and intellectual vision and a clearer understanding of how to serve in the League, the local Chapter will soon have a band of workers efficient both in spirit and method to take charge of its various departments.

Plan to attend the Summer Conference nearest to you: Conference of Missionary Education Movement, near Asheville, N. C.; Seashore Epworth League Assembly at Biloxi, Miss.; Texas Epworth League Conference at Corpus Christi, Tex.; the Missouri State League Assembly at Pertle Springs, Mo.; the Oklahoma State Assembly; and the Tennessee Summer Conference for Christian Workers. Write for dates and programs.

*Order from Mission Rooms. †Order from Publishing House.

WHERE TO WRITE.

Read Carefully.

All orders for textbooks, libraries, and accessories advertised in this Manual should be addressed to Smith & Lamar, 810 Broadway, Nashville, Tenn.

All correspondence concerning Mission Study Classes and other matters regarding the Department of Missionary Work, if it relates to the Senior League, should be addressed to Rev. E. H. Rawlings, Secretary, 810 Broadway, Nashville, Tenn.; if it relates to the Junior League, address Miss Mabel Head, Secretary, 810 Broadway, Nashville, Tenn.

THE EPWORTH LEAGUE COVENANTS.

Beginning in the Student Volunteer Movement, the Morning Watch has become an indispensable part of the plans of all the young people's societies. In the Epworth League it has taken the name of the "Quiet Hour," differing from the Morning Watch only in substituting the option of observing a definite time of prayer at any hour of the day instead of necessarily confining it to the first hour. The Quiet Hour movement has also commended itself to other organized parts of Church work. Pledge cards and tracts will be furnished at prices named in the catalogue, and the daily readings into which all our Bible courses are divided afford an excellent system of selections for use in this connection.

The success of the Quiet Hour Covenant in the League has been great, and it is commended to every Chapter as the best means of enriching the spiritual life of the Chapter, and thus of invigorating the whole body. A second covenant has more lately been intro-

duced. It is the Fellow Workers' Covenant, in which those who unite pledge themselves each to endeavor to lead one soul to Christ during the year. It is aggressive evangelism in the League, and has been welcomed by many pastors and workers, who see in it a means of definite commitment to work for the salvation of the unsaved.

Christian stewardship has also been introduced into the League in the covenant form. The members of the Christian Stewardship Covenant pledge themselves to scriptural rules of systematic and proportionate giving; not necessarily to tithing, although it is recommended that none fall short of giving a tenth, but to the recognition of the Lord's claim to our possessions and the holding of our all subject to his demands.

The Forward Movement was instituted with a view to increasing the membership of the League by personal effort. In many places the League has suffered from taking members in at a rate more rapid than admitted of their assimilation to the plans and spirit of the League; but it is oftener the case that the young people of the League rest content with their present number, making no sufficient effort to include the many young people of the Church who should be in the League. The Forward Movement is a perfectly feasible way to double the numbers in the League.

Folders fully explaining these covenants are to be had at fifty-five cents a hundred, and pledge cards for those who enter into them at twenty-five cents a hundred.

THE ONE-BY-ONE CAMPAIGN.

At the 1912 session of the Louisville District Epworth League Conference a plan for extending the organiza-

tion of the Epworth League into every pastoral charge in the district was formed. The name is descriptive, for it is simply that each Chapter form a team and, after correspondence with the pastor and others in authority, securing their consent, set about interesting the young people of a congregation in which there is no League and then forming them into a League Chapter.

Of course after effecting the organization the team does not dispense itself from care for the instruction and growth of the new Chapter. Helpful visits should be made, lessons in the work of the Chapter should be given, and it should be kept in mind that the organizing team stands sponsor for the young Epworth League.

In their zeal for the extension of the League the team should take care not to obtrude their services upon a pastor who does not cordially welcome them. It is quite possible that there are facts known to the pastor that may make it inexpedient to undertake the work, or he may have plans of his own that might be marred by officious endeavors to help.

A pamphlet giving detailed instructions for the One-by-One Campaign may be had on application to the Central Office. No League has reached the high-water mark of efficiency until it has become active in the organization of another Chapter. Almost one-third of our pastoral charges are without Epworth Leagues. One by one they should all be brought into the League column, and one by one the living Chapters can effect that greatly desired result.

CHAPTER VI.

Connectional Meetings.

THIS is to be a brief chapter on the larger delegated bodies and assemblies of the League. The book of Discipline directs that for the greater efficiency of the work Leagues may be organized into State, Annual, and District Conferences and City Unions. Formerly it was not deemed desirable to lay down any exact plan for the organization of these bodies, and no uniform constitution had been imposed. But the Epworth League Board at its meeting in 1906 adopted an official Constitution for State and Annual Conference Leagues, which is found following this chapter. No such form has been prepared for District and City Union Leagues. But in a general way it has been understood that, as these are only an expansion of the local Chapter, they should follow as far as practicable the general directions suggested by the constitution and by-laws of the local Chapter. That document will usually need but slight alteration or emendation to adapt it to all conditions.

These suggestions are offered:

State League Conferences.—Let these organizations have a President, four Vice Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer, an *Epworth Era* Agent, a Junior Superintendent, and a District Secretary for each presiding elder's district whose duty it is to correspond with the State Secretary and represent him in all matters in the district. The official body is the Cabinet, which should have general charge of the affairs of the Con-

ference—fiscal matters, the making of the program, the filling of vacancies, etc. The Superintendent and the four Vice Presidents should give constant attention to their departments in the State by correspondence, visitation, and the circulation of literature. The Fourth Vice President should have charge of missionary matters generally and the assessments for missions levied on the local Chapters. The Cabinet, composed of all the officers, should have a fall meeting each year at which a policy should be framed and put in operation.

Annual Conference Leagues.—Where there is no State Conference, then the Annual Conference should be, as to organization and plan of work, all that is suggested for the State Conference. Where an Annual Conference League works under the State organization, it should modify its plans only so far as to conform them to those of the higher body. Ordinarily the State and Annual Conference Leagues are the same thing, differing only in the description of territory covered.

District Leagues.—For all direct uses, the District League is the most efficient body in the League connection. Let it expand the local constitution, as in the case of the State and Annual Conference Leagues, and study to reach directly every League and Leaguer in its jurisdiction. The District Conference should be especially made a "school of methods" showing *how* each department should be conducted. It should require direct reports, not only from each Chapter, but also from each Secretary, Vice President, and Junior Superintendent. It should arrange for visitation amongst the Chapters, and should promote all enterprises begun by the same.

Unions.—The City or County Union is an affiliation of the several Leagues in a county or city. It can be

made a most powerful auxiliary. Its special object is to preserve a high standard of working zeal in the affiliated Chapters, stimulate the social and literary spirit, and forward local missionary operations. It is best described as the "larger Chapter."

International Conference.—The International Epworth League Conference (or Convention) is a mass meeting of the Leagues of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, the Methodist Church of Canada, and the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church in America, as also of visiting delegates from the Wesley Guilds of England and Oceania. It meets every four years. It has no legislative power as affects the status of the League as a whole or the work in any of the denominations. Its purpose is to cultivate fraternity and to discuss League methods and movements and general evangelical truth. All the relations of our League with the International Conference are left to the President of the General Epworth League Board and the General Secretary.

Reports.—The Publishing House has, under the direction of the Central Office, published a complete list of blanks for every League officer, from the Secretaries of the State Conference down to the Superintendent of the local Junior Chapter.

APPENDIX.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE EP- WORTH LEAGUE AS REVISED IN AUGUST, 1912.

Constitution.

ARTICLE I.—NAME.

THIS organization shall be known as the Epworth League of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Pastoral Charge, Conference; and shall be under the control of the Quarterly Conference of said pastoral charge. The pastor shall have general supervision of the League.

ARTICLE II.—OBJECT.

The object of the League shall be the promotion among the young people of piety and loyalty to our Church, their education in the Bible, Christian literature, personal evangelism, and the missionary work of the Church, and their encouragement in works of grace and charity.

ARTICLE III.—MEMBERSHIP.

There shall be two classes of members of the League—Active and Associate.

1. The Active membership shall consist of all persons not under fourteen years of age, who shall be elected at a regular business meeting, on nomination of the Council and after the following question, propounded by the pastor or President, has been answered affirmatively, either orally or in writing:

Will you faithfully observe the Rule and Constitution

of the Epworth League, attend its meetings, and take some part in them?

Any Senior League Chapter shall have the power to suspend the foregoing conditions of membership and to receive those who apply for membership on their assumption of the obligation of members without election.

Provided that, on recommendation of the pastor, the League may admit to membership youths under fourteen; *provided, further*, that in Churches where there is a demand for them, or where Junior Leagues do not exist, Intermediate Leagues may be organized, whose Constitution shall be the same as that of the Senior League, except that the age of membership shall be from ten to sixteen.

2. Associate members shall be subject to the same regulations as Active members, except that they shall not be required to take part in the devotional meetings nor to assent to the Epworth League Rule.

3. Members of the Junior League may become members of the Senior League by promotion on recommendation of the Junior Superintendent.

Promotion Day for the advance of the Juniors to the Senior League shall be observed in all Chapters when there are Juniors to be promoted to membership in the Senior League.

4. Members of the Intermediate League may become members of the Senior League on application.

5. The Rule of the Epworth League is the application to daily life of our motto, "All for Christ."

6. In Chapters the pastor and Council of which approve the following alternative Rule may be adopted: "As an aid to the realization of the Epworth League

motto, 'All for Christ,' I will make it the practice of my life to read the Bible and pray at some specified hour each day, to be faithful in attending the services of my own Church, and will endeavor each week to bring some one to the church service or otherwise do some personal work for the salvation of souls."

ARTICLE IV.—OFFICERS.

The officers of the League shall be a President, four Vice Presidents, a Junior League Superintendent, a Boys' League Superintendent, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and an *Epworth Era* Agent. They shall be elected annually by ballot (except the Junior Superintendent and Boys' League Superintendent, who shall be appointed by the pastor) on a majority vote, at the business meeting in August or September, and shall take charge of their respective offices on the first of the month following their election. The President shall be a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and all the other officers shall be members of some evangelical Church. All the officers shall be approved by the pastor, and the President shall be confirmed by the Quarterly Conference.

ARTICLE V.—DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

The President shall preside at the business meetings of the League, preserve order, see that the Constitution and By-Laws are duly observed, make reports to the League Unions and Conferences, and discharge all the duties usual to his office. The Vice Presidents shall preside at meetings under the direction of their respective departments; and in the absence of the President they shall preside, in their order, at the business meetings of the League. The Junior Superintendent shall have charge of the work of the Junior League, under

the Constitution and By-Laws of that organization, and the Boys' League Superintendent shall have charge of work for boys. The Secretary shall keep a faithful record of the proceedings of all the meetings of the League and conduct its correspondence, and furnish the pastor, for insertion in his report to the Quarterly Conference, an account of the specific work of the League for the preceding quarter. The Treasurer shall keep in safe deposit all the funds placed in his hands, and shall pay out of same by the direction of the League on the order of the Secretary. He shall also remit to the General Secretary as soon as possible after the first of June each year the assessment of ten cents a member for the support of the Central Office. Or in place thereof one-half the proceeds of the offering made for League extension on Epworth League Day, the other half to go for State or Conference League Extension, to be remitted to the Treasurer of the Conference Epworth League or, in case there is no Conference Epworth League organization, to the Treasurer of the Epworth League Board of the Annual Conference. The duty of the *Epworth Era* Agent shall be to solicit subscriptions for the League organ, look after the annual renewal of clubs, and furnish reports to the editor.

ARTICLE VI.—THE COUNCIL.

The President, the Vice Presidents, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Junior Superintendent, the Boys' League Superintendent, the *Epworth Era* Agent, and the preacher in charge shall constitute the League Council, of which the pastor shall be chairman. The Council shall meet monthly previous to the regular business meeting to consider applications for membership, to suggest plans to present to the business meeting, and

to aid the several Vice Presidents in planning their work and selecting leaders. It shall be the duty of the Council to outline a policy for the year's work as soon as possible after election.

ARTICLE VII.—DEPARTMENTS.

The work of the League shall be divided into four departments, as follows: (1) The Department of Worship and Evangelism; (2) The Department of Social Service; (3) The Department of Culture and Recreation; (4) The Department of Missionary Work. The work of each department shall be in the hands of a committee, of which the appropriate Vice President shall be chairman. Care shall be taken that each member be annually assigned to work in one of the departments or in one of the offices.

1. *The Department of Worship and Evangelism* shall have charge of all the devotional services of the League, such as prayer and praise meetings, outdoor meetings, cottage prayer meetings, Bible-reading meetings, temperance meetings, etc. It shall seek to promote personal work, and to that end shall form groups for the study of personal evangelism, using such books as may be recommended from time to time by the Board. The First Vice President after consultation with the Council shall appoint leaders for the weekly prayer meetings of the League at least one month in advance. A committee to be known as the Watch Committee shall be formed in this department, which shall keep an accurate record of the attendance and participation of members in the weekly devotional meetings, and by visitation and personal work shall endeavor to keep up the attendance on and participation of members in the meetings.

2. *The Department of Social Service* shall arrange

for the systematic visitation of the sick, the needy poor, and strangers. It shall assist the pastor in all charitable works of the congregation and coöperate with him in all Church work. The department shall be specially charged with the duty of teaching temperance, purity, and good citizenship, and shall hold occasional temperance and prohibition meetings, also holding itself in readiness to assist in movements for community surveys and betterment.,,

There shall be a standing committee of this department known as the Membership Committee, the duty of which shall be to devise and carry out plans for the enlargement of the membership of the Chapter. In carrying out these plans the committee is to have the co-operation of the entire Chapter.

3. *The Department of Culture and Recreation* shall promote the study of the history, doctrines, and polity of our Church; shall superintend all courses of reading and study prescribed by the League; shall arrange for lectures, literary entertainments, and other means of mental culture; and shall endeavor to extend the circulation of the books, tracts, and periodicals of our own Church, especially the organ of the League, and shall provide proper social recreation for our young people.

4. *The Department of Missionary Work* shall promote an interest in, and disseminate intelligence of, the work of missions at home and abroad; provide for Mission Study Classes, the collection of a missionary library, and other helps; appoint leaders and provide for the monthly missionary meeting; and collect, take charge of, and disburse money for missionary purposes, under direction of the pastor and Council.

ARTICLE VIII.—REVENUE.

Each League shall at the beginning of the year prepare a budget setting forth the needed revenue for the year, including an amount necessary to supply the Chapter with *Epworth Eras*, and shall determine for itself a method of raising its revenue.

ARTICLE IX.—CHARTER.

Each League shall be organized under a charter, which shall be issued upon application by the General Secretary of the League; and no Leagues except chartered Leagues shall be enrolled upon our records.

ARTICLE X.—SPECIAL COMMITTEES.

Special committees may be appointed as needed, at the discretion of the League.

ARTICLE XI.—THE CONSTITUTION.

The Constitution can be changed only by the Epworth League Board.

By-Laws.

1. The League shall decide the time and place of its meetings.

2. The League shall hold one meeting of the Council preceding the business meeting each month.

3. Every meeting shall be opened with religious services, reading a portion of Scripture, singing, and prayer.

4. At every regular business meeting each of the departments shall present through its chairman a written report of the work under its care.

5. The order of proceeding at a regular business meeting shall be: (1) Reading of the minutes of the last meeting; (2) reports from departments; (3) report from the Junior League through its Superintendent; (4) report from the Boys' League through its Superin-

tendent; (5) reports from special committees; (6) election of new members; (7) miscellaneous business.

6. At any business meeting — members shall constitute a quorum.

7. The annual election of officers shall occur at the business meeting in August or September, and the Secretary of the League shall immediately report the names of the officers elect to the Central Office at Nashville.

8. Any member who shall willfully fail to comply with the conditions of membership shall, at the discretion of the League, forfeit his membership.

SCHOOL AND COLLEGE LEAGUES.

Responding to a demand for the formation of Leagues in seminaries of learning, the Secretary suggests that the following modification of the Constitution as adopted by the Epworth League Board may be made, but it cannot become an authoritative Constitution in the matter of the substitution suggested without the action of the Epworth League Board:

ARTICLE I.

Substitute the name of the college, academy, or school in which the League is organized for the name of the local Church, reading as follows: "This organization shall be known as the Epworth League of — College [School or Academy] of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South."

ARTICLE II.

Substitute the word President (or Principal) for Pastor in line 12, and elsewhere make the same substitution.

ARTICLE III.

The provision for Junior Superintendent may be omitted, and the date of election of officers made to coincide with the first business meeting of the school session.

Instead of being approved by the Quarterly Conference, the officers may be approved by the President and Faculty.

ARTICLE IV.

It may be provided that reports be made to the President (or Principal) of the institution instead of to the Pastor.

The President (or Principal) of the institution may be made the Chairman of the League Council.

By-Law 7 should be so changed as to make the annual election of officers come at the first business meeting of the session.

MODEL CONSTITUTION FOR STATE OR CONFERENCE LEAGUE.

ARTICLE I.—NAME.

This organization shall be known as the
[State or Conference] Epworth League of the Methodist
Episcopal Church, South.

ARTICLE II.—OBJECT.

The object of this organization shall be to promote the interests of the Epworth Leagues within the bounds of the [Annual Conference or State], and to this end it shall hold an Annual Conference.

ARTICLE III.—MEMBERSHIP.

Each chartered League within the bounds of the [Annual Conference or State] shall be a member of this organization.

ARTICLE IV.—OFFICERS.

The officers of this organization shall be a President, four Vice Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer, an *Epworth Era* Agent, a Junior Superintendent, and a District Secretary for each presiding elder's district within the Conference [or Conferences, in case the organization includes more than one] embraced in its territory.

ARTICLE V.—DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

The President shall preside at all meetings of the League, shall take general oversight of the work of this organization, and discharge all the duties usual to the office of President. The First, Second, Third, and Fourth Vice Presidents shall represent respectively the departments of Work and Evangelism, Social Service, Culture and Recreation, and Missionary Work, and shall promote the interests of their respective departments within the bounds of the Conference. In the absence of the President these officers shall perform in the order named the duties of President. The Secretary shall conduct the correspondence of the organization and shall keep a record of all required reports and proceedings. The Treasurer shall receive, hold, and disburse all moneys of this organization by its direction. The *Epworth Era* Agent shall promote the circulation of the *Epworth Era*, and the Junior Superintendent shall forward the Junior League within the territory of the Conference. The District Secretaries shall have entire supervision of the League work within their respective districts.

ARTICLE VI.—SELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The aforesaid officers, except the District Secretaries, shall be elected annually at the annual meeting upon

nomination of an electoral commission composed of one Leaguer from each presiding elder's district; the said member of the electoral commission to be named by the delegates in attendance from the district that he represents upon the electoral commission, or by the Chair for any district that may not be represented in the annual meeting.

The District Secretaries shall be appointed annually by the President upon consultation with the presiding elders of the respective districts.

ARTICLE VII.—EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The officers of this organization shall constitute its Executive Committee, which committee shall be charged with the duty of executing the will of the organization and promoting its interests in the interim of its sessions.

ARTICLE VIII.—REVENUE.

Each local Chapter shall pay to the Treasurer of this organization annually for every twenty-five members or fraction thereof, *provided* that no Chapter shall pay less than; said tax to be paid within sixty days of the annual meeting. Each Junior League shall pay a tax on the basis of one-half the amount paid by the Senior Leagues. In addition, each Senior League shall pay ten cents a member to the General Secretary, Nashville, Tenn., and each Junior League one dollar a year for maintenance of the Central Office.

ARTICLE IX.—AMENDMENTS.

This Constitution may be amended at the regular annual session by a three-fourths vote of the delegates present.

By-Laws.

1. *The annual meeting* of this organization shall be held at such place as the Leagues in Annual Conference may select, and at such time as the Executive Committee may appoint. When no selection is made, or a change becomes necessary, the Executive Committee shall have power to act.

2. *Each Senior League shall be entitled to one delegate* for every members, and to one additional delegate for a fraction. No Chapter shall be deprived of one delegate. *Each Junior Chapter shall be entitled to delegate...*

3. *The Annual Conference shall require of each Department a report of its work*, and as far as practicable shall provide a *school of methods* for each department.

4. *The District Secretaries shall be required to furnish the Conference Secretary with quarterly reports from each Department of every Chapter in his district.* He shall bring about the organization of new Leagues wherever practicable. He shall be charged with the responsibility of holding annually a district meeting within the bounds of his district.

5. *General parliamentary usage* shall control the deliberations of this organization.

6. *There shall be held annually a meeting of the Cabinet*, composed of all the officers, at a time and place to be determined by the Executive Committee, at which meeting a policy shall be outlined and plans made for putting into effect this policy through the District Secretaries and other officers.

7. These by-laws may be changed at any session by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present.

THE DISTRICT EPWORTH LEAGUE.

Organization.

Every League Chapter within a presiding elder's district may choose a certain number of representatives to attend a meeting of Epworthians to organize a District Epworth League. Subsequent conventions of the District League may be composed of delegates from local Chapters according to the ratio determined by the organization.

Officers.

The District League may elect the same complement of officers usually employed in a local Chapter. But for the purpose for which the district organization is designed a smaller number of officers may prove desirable. A President, a Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer will be found to be quite adequate to the needs of the work. Indeed, our enterprises have sometimes been hindered by too heavy an arrangement of machinery. Let us try simplifying administration for a while. It is very difficult, for example, to keep four Vice Presidents on a district adequately and effectively employed. For a wide territory centralization of responsibility upon a few persons seems to yield the largest results.

The District Conference.

The District League, of course, gives fullest expression to its existence in the district meeting. *When* ought this gathering to be held, and how often? *How* ought it be conducted? What results ought to be expected to follow?

The District Conference ought to be held where the

greatest number of Epworth Leaguers can be assembled together under the most favorable conditions. This may be at the time of the regular District Conference for the whole Church; or it may be at the time of a special district meeting in the interest of Sunday schools—a vitally important phase of young peoples work—or it may be convened at a time when no other interest save that of advanced training for young people is to be considered. The second and last alternatives are to be preferred to the first. But if the first is the only possibility, League leaders should take care to make the most of it.

The institute feature should predominate. Ordinarily the time is too short to hope to accomplish very far-reaching results by depending solely or chiefly upon merely inspirational methods. The district meeting if properly managed will reach a larger number of Epworth Leaguers *per capita* membership than any other young people's gathering. It is distinctly the opportunity to teach *methods* of doing League work. No pains should be spared, therefore, to have brought before the members of the conference the latest plans and suggestions of expert workers.

A single theme or aim should be the keynote of the conference. For examples: "Evangelization and How to Do It;" "Missions and How to Forward Them;" "The Junior League: Its Importance, Essentials to Its Success;" "Boys and How to Save Them;" "Christianizing the Social Life of Young People." To take up such subjects as these in succession year after year will afford opportunity of gaining the mastery of some of the most vexing questions before the Church to-day. Only a single subject a year should be attempted. All

discussions of detail and of departmental activity ought to be positively related to the central theme.

Free discussion ought to be encouraged, but care must be exercised that no person or party shall monopolize the time. Leaders of open conferences or round tables would do well to *write out* the statement of the questions they are to handle.

Practical demonstrations of methods ought to be given daily while the conference is in session. Thus at a given hour Bible and mission study groups should be assembled and conducted *just as they may be conducted in the local Chapter*. In the same way a model business meeting should be held or a Council conference or a personal workers' group.

Direct efforts should be made to enlist every Leaguer present in the Quiet Hour Covenant. So a suggestion may be given that will result in fixing many young people in the habit of daily Bible study and prayer.

What are some of the *results* which should be aimed at in every District Conference?

1. To get every Chapter pledged to conduct at least one study class in the subject which is the special theme of the Conference.
2. To secure an "echo meeting" of the District Conference in every local League.
3. To lay plans for organizing Chapters in all the Churches in the district.
4. To make arrangements to have institutes conducted in as many local Leagues or communities as possible.
5. To create a conference spirit that will tend to enlarge and perpetuate the yearly gathering.
6. To purpose and plan for the organization of new Leagues in the district by the one-by-one plan.

The District Secretary.

The District Secretary is the key to the whole question of district efficiency. He is *not* the secretary elected by the District Conference to write the minutes. He is appointed by the President of the Annual Conference or State League with the approval of the presiding elder. He is the traveling secretary for the district—the field agent, if you please.

His duties are:

1. To correspond with all the Chapters in the district and with those pastors in any of whose Churches there is no League.
2. To visit the Chapters in his district as frequently as possible.
3. To hold institutes in central places, so as to reach all the Leagues.
4. To organize new Chapters.
5. To send a written report at the end of every quarter to the General Secretary at Nashville, sending a duplicate to the State or Annual Conference President.

HIS EQUIPMENT.

The District League, with suggested programs for District Institute. Per dozen.....	\$0 10
Report Blanks No. 20 (Senior). For reporting to State Secretary summary of work in district. Per dozen	10
Report Blanks No. 21 (Junior). For reporting to State Junior Superintendent summary of district Junior work. Per dozen.....	10
Nos. 20 and 21 may also be had in manila cover containing twenty-four blanks. Each.....	25
These are especially useful for State officers, and may be used for summaries of the district reports.	
"District Secretary Pen Points." 3 cents each; per hundred	2 00

"Secret of a Successful Union." 3 cents each; per hundred	\$2 00
"Christian Endeavor Unions." Adapted to greater League organizations. 10 cents each; per dozen. 1 00	
"Manuals of the Departments." Each.....	05

HIS RESOURCES.

1. Appropriation by the District Conference.
2. Appropriation by the Annual Conference.
3. Contribution to expense fund by Chapters visited during the quarter.

In Place of the District Secretary.

If it be found impracticable to depend upon a District Secretary, try the following plans:

1. Print a folder announcing that the District Cabinet wants to help the local Chapters. Ask every League to arrange for a rally day and invite the District President to be present. State that the President will come and meet the local Cabinet and afterwards give an address.

2. Let a fund of at least \$25 be pledged at the District Conference for extension work.

Then let a visitation committee lay plans to visit every Chapter in the district within a given two weeks or month, each member of the committee taking a section of the district.

An afternoon and an evening should be devoted to each place, the afternoons being given up to a discussion of methods and business, the evenings to social enjoyment and an inspirational address.

Following these Chapter visitations, subdistrict meetings should be held, leading up to the next regular District Conference.

This is substantially the Madison District Plan, which has been employed with gratifying success.

PRESIDENTS OF STATE AND CONFERENCE EPWORTH LEAGUES.

Alabama.—Rev. Havilen T. Strout, Hurtsboro, Ala.

Florida.—Rev. C. Fred Blackburn, Miami, Fla.

Holston.—E. C. Hamilton, Abingdon, Va.

Kentucky.—Rev. T. W. Watts, Covington, Ky.

Little Rock.—Rev. T. B. Warwick, 700 East Markham Street, Little Rock, Ark.

Louisville.—E. O. Harbin, 2332 West Walnut Street, Louisville, Ky.

Louisiana.—Robert A. Steel, Ruston, La.

Memphis.—Rev. Robert A. Clark, Memphis, Tenn.

Mississippi.—Charles P. Ames, Hattiesburg, Miss.

Missouri.—Sim Beam, Box 246, Springfield, Mo.

North Alabama.—Rev. C. A. Bowen, 3388 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, Ala.

North Carolina.—Sam B. Underwood, Kinston, N. C.

North Georgia.—Rev. W. M. Barnett, Murrayville, Ga.

North Mississippi.—C. B. Baker, Houston, Miss.

North Texas.—A. B. Hardin, Denison, Tex.

South Carolina.—J. Caldwell Guilds, Bamberg, S. C.

South Georgia.—C. A. Wheeler, Fitzgerald, Ga.

Tennessee.—W. M. Cassetty, Jr., Methodist Training School, Nashville, Tenn.

Texas State Assembly.—Rev. Glenn Flynn, Bryan, Tex.

Western North Carolina.—Rev. E. L. Bain, Winston, N. C.

OUR LEAGUE SYMBOLS.

BY REV. PETER STOKES.

The symbols of the Epworth League are three in number: (1) Our flower, the violet; (2) our colors, white and gold; (3) our badge, the Maltese cross.

Let us see first the symbolic teaching of our flower, the violet. The blue violet has been chosen as the flower of the Epworth League because of its color and fragrance. It is symbolic of love and constancy, and these are qualities that should be found in every member of the Epworth League: love for God and love for men, especially those who are in need, and constancy in our loving service for others. This loving, constant life in any League will be to the lives of our fellow mortals as the fragrance of the violet, refreshing and inspiring.

As to the second of our League symbols, could anything be more appropriate? Is there anything higher than the "white and gold" that we can set before our young people? White has always been the emblem of light and purity. Whiteness of character means for us lightness, transparency, purity of character; and when our Leaguers wear the white as an emblem of the League, it signifies their purpose to be white, transparent, pure in character.

The "gold" symbolizes worth, and worth means service. Then when the Epworth Leaguer wears his League colors, the gold over the white, it means that his purpose is to be of worth for service by being white or pure in character. What a glorious army of young men and young women would the Church have if this purpose were really written on their hearts! With this before us, our colors become more than an inch or two of white and gold ribbon worn on our breasts. They begin to glow as with fervent heat until our cold, careless hearts are moved.

The third symbol of the Epworth League is the badge, the Maltese cross. This cross derives its name from the fact that it was the emblem of the Knights of Malta, a religious order that flourished in the Middle Ages. It

is an eight-pointed cross, the eight points radiating from a circle inclosing a smaller circle, the smaller circle inclosing an ordinary cross in the face of a blazing sun, the space between the larger and smaller circle containing the League motto, "All for Christ." The eight points are connected in pairs by four straight lines, thus forming the crown, the base, and the two wings of the cross, and in the wings the letters "E. L." are to be seen. The eight points indicate the eight points of the Christian's contact with the outside world as expressed in the eight beatitudes, where Jesus gives the essential character of those who are members of his kingdom. Let us hang these eight traits of character one upon each of the points of our cross, and we shall then understand the significance. We must remember that Jesus does not teach of eight different characters, but of one class, setting forth the various elements of character of those who would be his disciples:

1. Poverty of spirit—true humility.
2. Deep concern for self and others.
3. Meek, gentle, and teachable.
4. Spiritually aggressive.
5. Merciful.
6. Purity.
7. Peace-loving and peace-making.
8. Patient endurance for Christ's sake.

We recall that these eight points of the cross radiated from a circle inclosing a smaller circle, and in the space between the circles is the motto, "All for Christ." The circle is symbolic of the teaching of the motto—viz., the completeness of our consecration to Christ. The eight points going out from the circle teach us that the source or beginning of these traits of character is to be found

in the completeness of our devotion or consecration to Jesus Christ.

This circle, denoting the fullness of our consecration, has in its center the cross in the face of the blazing sun. In this we are taught that as the glorious life of Christ, with his cross and great sacrifice, is the central fact of our faith, so the inspiration and power for our personal consecration will be found in Christ and his cross. It further teaches us that the best life and the fullest consecration are possible only when our hearts are aglow with love for God and the cross is ever present.

FORM FOR THE RECOGNITION OF MEMBERS.

[The recognition of members is not by any means to be confused with the confession of Christ which is involved in reception as a member of the Church. It is an appropriate mode of welcoming those who have been, on their own application, elected members of the League. The most convenient time for this service is the hour of the devotional meeting. Let the recognition of members precede the topic and the open meeting. The newly received members are then expected to take part in the meeting following. This part of the meeting should be in charge of the President of the League or the pastor of the Church.]

OPENING.

(Psalms cxxxiii., cxxxiv.)

Leader. Behold, how good and how pleasant it is
For brethren to dwell together in unity!

Congregation. It is like the precious oil upon the head,
That ran down upon the beard,
Even Aaron's beard;
That came down upon the skirt of his garments.

- L.* Like the dew of Hermon,
That cometh down upon the mountains of Zion:
For there Jehovah commanded the blessing,
Even life for evermore.
- C.* Behold, bless ye Jehovah, all ye servants of Jehovah,
That by night stand in the house of Jehovah.
- L.* Lift up your hands to the sanctuary,
And bless ye Jehovah.
- C.* Jehovah bless thee out of Zion;
Even he that made heaven and earth.
- All.* Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

PRAYER.

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.

O God, who knowest us to be set in so many and great dangers that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright, grant to us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE-READING.

Ephesians vi. 10-18.

John xv. 1-17.

Hymn :

LORD, SPEAK TO ME, THAT I MAY SPEAK.

(The Methodist Hymnal, No. 410.)

Lord, speak to me, that I may speak

In living echoes of thy tone;

As thou hast sought, so let me seek

Thy erring children lost and lone.

O strengthen me, that while I stand

Firm on the rock, and strong in thee,

I may stretch out a loving hand

To wrestlers with the troubled sea.

O teach me, Lord, that I may teach

The precious things thou dost impart;

And wing my words, that they may reach

The hidden depths of many a heart.

O fill me with thy fullness, Lord,

Until my very heart o'erflow

In kindling thought and glowing word,

Thy love to tell, thy praise to show.

[The leader of the service then calls to the front the members elect, who are addressed by the several officers of the League in the following or other appropriate words.]

The President. In becoming members of the Epworth League you do not acquire any privilege or assume any obligation that does not inhere in membership in the Church, but you enter into a covenant of mutual helpfulness with other members of the Church in order that together we may more fully realize both our privileges and obligations: and that together we may find help in our moral purposes and spiritual needs, Christian counsel and sympathy, and organized and directed

forms of endeavor. In the League we bring to fullest expression the brotherhood that all Christians profess; we care for each other's spiritual and material welfare; we join hands in the work of building up the kingdom of God and fulfilling the Christian service. Of these things the several officers in charge of departments will speak more specifically after we have received the assurance of your purpose to be faithful members of our League.

The Rule of the Epworth League is the application to daily life of our motto, "All for Christ."

[In Chapters of which the pastor and Council approve the following may be substituted for the shorter form of the Epworth League Rule: "As an aid to the realization of the Epworth League motto, 'All for Christ,' I will make it the practice of my life to read the Bible and pray at some specified hour each day, to be faithful in attending the services of my own Church, and will endeavor each week to bring some one to the Church service or otherwise do some personal work for the salvation of souls."]

Will you faithfully observe the Rule and Constitution of the Epworth League, attend its meetings as far as possible, and take some part in them?

Response. I will.

The First Vice President. "Vow and pay unto the Lord your vow." Our League pledge is definite, broad, and comprehensive; and if faithfully kept, will develop a character of true worth and beauty. Review this pledge daily in thought, word, and deed. [Here the First Vice President presents each candidate with a pledge card.] "Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life."

The Second Vice President. "I counsel thee to buy

of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and he that overcometh the same shall be clothed in white raiment." Our League colors are gold and white, symbolic of worth and purity; our motto, "All for Christ," and the violet our League flower. The sweet perfumes of our royal flower may symbolize the soothing influences of love's administrations to the suffering. Do diligent work in the Department of Social Service, and know by experience that it is more blessed to give than to receive. [The Second Vice President gives badges to the candidates.]

The Third Vice President. "Search the Scriptures: for in them ye think ye have eternal life; and they are they which testify of me." Knowledge is power. Study this Constitution [here the Third Vice President gives each candidate a copy of the Constitution], that your impulses to do good may be carried out according to law and order, and thus be more effective in accomplishing the end proposed. You desire to become a student. The Department of Culture and Recreation of the League is to help you. "Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding."

The Fourth Vice President. "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." It is impossible for us selfishly to enjoy the blessings of the gospel. We must pass them on or lose them. The League places missionary work and giving right in line with personal piety, and provides for the systematic study of missions and for the cultivation of systematic giving for missions. [The Fourth Vice President gives to each candidate the Fourth Department Handbook.] "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of them that bring glad tidings of good things!"

PRAYER BY THE PASTOR

for a blessing upon the new members, after which the members are introduced by the President and welcomed by the Chapter with handshaking.

HYMN.

(The Methodist Hymnal, No. 349.)

Saviour, thy dying love
Thou gavest me,
Nor should I aught withhold,
Dear Lord, from thee.
In love my soul would bow,
My heart fulfill its vow,
Some offering bring thee now,
Something for thee.

Give me a faithful heart,
Likeness to thee,
That each departing day
Henceforth may see
Some work of love begun,
Some deed of kindness done,
Some wanderers sought and won,
Something for thee.

All that I am and have,
Thy gifts so free,
In joy, in grief, through life,
Dear Lord, for thee!
And when thy face I see,
My ransomed soul shall be,
Through all eternity,
Something for thee.

[In case the devotional meeting should not follow, the service may here close with the League benediction]

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS.

NOTE.—Officers are regularly elected at the August or September business meeting each year. They may be installed thereafter at any convenient time, preferably Sunday, at one of the hours of service, morning or evening, the installation taking place of the usual service.

VOLUNTARY BY ORGAN OR CHOIR.

(Psalm for responsive reading, lxxvii.)

Leader. God be merciful unto us and bless us;

Congregation. And cause his face to shine upon us.

L. That thy way may be known upon earth,

C. Thy saving health among all nations.

All. Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee.

L. O let the nation be glad and sing for joy.

C. For thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon earth.

All. Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee.

L. Then shall the earth yield her increase;

C. And God, even our own God, shall bless us.

L. God shall bless us:

C. And all the ends of the earth shall fear him.

All. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

PRAYER.

Leader. Let us pray.

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with thy most gracious favor, and further us with thy continual help; that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy Name, and finally by thy mercy obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN.

"Come, Thou Almighty King." (Hymnal, No. 2.)

EPISTLE.

Romans xii. 1-8

GOSPEL.

Matthew xxv. 14-27.

HYMN.

"I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord." (Hymnal, No. 208.)

THE APOSTLES' CREED.

(All standing.)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose again from the dead, he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER.

Leader. Let us pray.

O Almighty God, who hast bidden us seek thee that we may find, and who pourest out upon all who desire it the spirit of grace and supplication, deliver us when

we draw nigh thee from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections we may worship thee in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. [Response by all the people.] Amen.

Almighty and Everlasting God, who by thy holy Apostle hast taught us to make prayers and supplications and to give thanks for all men, we humbly beseech thee most mercifully to receive these our prayers, which we offer unto thy Divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy name may agree in the truth of thy Holy Word and live in unity and godly love. We beseech thee also to save and defend all Christian kings, princes, and governors, and especially thy servants the supreme rulers of these United States, that under them we may be godly and quietly governed. Give grace, O Heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers of thy gospel, that they may both by their life and doctrine set forth thy true and lively word and rightly and duly administer thy holy sacraments. And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present, that they may truly serve thee in righteousness and holiness all the days of their life.

Especially let thy blessing rest upon the Epworth League throughout the Church, and upon all other agencies for promoting the gospel among the young people. Give grace to these thy servants, who are about to be installed as officers in this Chapter, and to the thousands who, throughout the Church, assume like responsibility, that they may faithfully do all duties committed to them and be blessed therein. Grant this, O Father,

for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. [Response by all.] Amen.

HYMN.

"Lead on, O King Eternal!" (Hymnal, No. 408.)

ADDRESS.

NOTE.—If the installation occurs at a regular devotional meeting of the League, the topic for the day may take the place of the address.

INSTALLATION.

NOTE.—The officers elect having been called to the chancel, they are addressed by the pastor in the following or some other suitable exhortation:

Pastor. Office-bearing is at once an honor and a responsibility. You have been chosen from among your fellow Leaguers by their suffrages because they believe that you have capacity, zeal, and Christian character by which you are fitted for the work of the several offices that you are to fill the coming year. You cannot be indifferent to the distinction implied in your selection. But there should also be a recognition of the additional responsibility that inheres in these offices. There is no honor but that carries with it duty, no distinction but that has its peculiar influence. If honor has been done you, additional burdens also are laid upon you by your election.

Upon the officers chiefly depends the effectiveness of any organization; upon its leadership, the success of any movement. The character of the coming year's work of your Chapter will be determined by the spirit and purpose with which you enter upon the discharge of your official functions and the faithfulness with which you adhere to right purposes.

You are to be patterns of diligence, zeal, perseverance, and punctuality. What you are, the Chapter as

a whole will become. Your spirit will infect the body, whether for good or ill.

Results of no less consequence than the salvation of souls and their upbuilding in Christian character and usefulness await your faithful discharge of the duties of your respective offices. On the contrary, so distorted a type of Christian may be presented that others will be repelled rather than drawn to our Master, and your fellow Leaguers may obtain ideals so low as to render them ineffective members of the Church. The realization of these things alone can make you watchful and prayerful, and thus enable you to give account of your stewardship with joy and not shame.

[Let the following questions be answered by the officers elect:]

Question. With what spirit do you enter upon this responsible work as officers of the League?

Answer. The spirit of Him who said: "The Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister." (Matt. xx. 28.)

Q. How do you hold the talents and opportunities recognized in your election as officers of the Epworth League?

A. "According as each hath received a gift, ministering it among yourselves, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God, . . . that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, whose is the glory and the dominion forever and ever." (1 Pet. iv. 10, 11. R. V.)

Q. What is the chief requirement of such a stewardship?

A. "It is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful." (1 Cor. iv. 2.)

Q. What is the rule of faithfulness?

A. "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much," (Luke xvi. 10.)

Q. What reward has the faithful steward?

A. "Blessed is that servant, whom his Lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Of a truth I say unto you, that he will set him over all that he hath." (Luke xii. 43, 44.)

Q. What motives may you bring to bear upon your work as officers in the Epworth League?

A. "Whatsoever ye do, in word or in deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Col. iii. 17.)

Q. By what means may you hope to be sufficient for these things?

A. "Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." (1 Thess. v. 16-18.)

Pastor (to the President elect). As the executive officer of the Chapter it is incumbent upon you to supervise all its works, to see that a policy is outlined and kept steadily in view throughout the year, to aid your brother officers, and to bring about the coöperation of the several departments.

Response. "He that ruleth, let him do it with diligence."

Pastor (to the First Vice President elect). In charge of the more specifically spiritual department, it is incumbent upon you to promote a spirit of worship and a habit of prayer, testimony, and praise among *all* the members, and to see that the devotional meetings are a means of grace to those who attend.

Response. "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together; . . . but exhorting one another."

Pastor (to the Second Vice President elect). To you is committed the charge and direction in your Chapter of that part of the ministry of Jesus by which he revived the wavering faith of John the Baptizer, and by which the gospel of God's love is still commended to the world.

Response. "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Pastor (to the Third Vice President elect). To you is committed the superintendency of the Department of Instruction in its broader aspects. The new life in Christ must pervade the whole nature. See to it that your League members are taught to see and serve Christ in everything that pertains to their intellectual and social life, and to know the works of God in the history of our own Church.

Response. "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and mind and strength."

Pastor (to the Fourth Vice President elect). The chief ends for which the Church exists are fellowship in Christ and expansion throughout the whole world in order that all men may be brought into this fellowship. Your duty is to see that your Chapter is made intelligently acquainted with the work of missions, that gifts for missions are systematically made, and to promote prayer for the missionaries.

Response. "This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all."

Pastor (to the Secretary elect). The keeping of records and the roll of members, correspondence, announcement of meetings, and such business details are your work; but remember that no effective organization can exist without care in your office. It is suffi-

ciently important to have its correspondence in heaven, where the deeds of men are recorded against the day of reckoning.

Response. "What thou seest, write in a book."

Pastor (to the Treasurer elect). You are the custodian of the gifts of your fellow Leaguers for the League, for benevolence, for missions, and whatever other purposes they may determine. Be more careful than you would be with your own, make exact records of what you receive and of what you disburse, and see to it that your fellow Leaguers are not negligent of their financial obligations to the League.

Response. "If ye have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give to you your own?"

Pastor (to the *Epworth Era* Agent elect). Upon the faithful performance of the duties of your office, more than any other one thing, depends the success of our work throughout the Church. Without our League organ, the *Epworth Era*, instead of a strong, united, homogeneous body numbering many thousands of members, we should not rise above a few scattered and unrelated efforts to enlist the young people in the service of the Church. By putting your League paper into the hands of others you multiply its influence and magnify its voice for good.

Response. "Great was the company that published the tidings."

Pastor (to the Junior Superintendent). However faithful and efficient our League may now be, we have reason for expecting it to be better in the future. The Juniors will augment our numbers as they pass out of the period of girlhood and boyhood into that of youth, and they will more than proportionately increase our force as the result of the training they are to receive

under you as a sub-pastor. Be faithful to the trust committed to you in the directing and training of our Juniors, remembering that in most cases their future is to be decided by what is done during the time they are in your care.

Response. "Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven."

OBLIGATION.

Do you promise to use your utmost endeavors faithfully to discharge the duties of your offices during the coming year for which you have been elected to them?

All. We do, by the help of God.

Pastor. To you I commit the care and leadership of the League Chapter for the coming year. May your work be abundantly rewarded by success therein and by the answer of a good conscience toward God and men!

[Insignia consisting of the League colors—white and old gold—upon which have been printed the names of the several officers, may be pinned upon the breast of each with the League badge.]

PRAYER BY PASTOR.

DOXOLOGY AND BENEDICTION.

NOTE.—The prayers used are taken, for the most part, from the Sunday Service Book, prepared by John Wesley for the Methodist Episcopal Church in America.

FELLOWSHIP WEEK—OUTLINE FOR DAILY SERVICE.

[The programs for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday may take the place of the regular devotional topics in the Prophets for the devotional meetings, but not for private study.]

PALM SUNDAY—A DAY OF TRIUMPH.

Opening. Let the leader, after an organ voluntary or suitable hymn, open the meeting by reading Zechariah ix. 9, 10.

Hymn 150: * "Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!"

Responsive reading: Psalm cxviii. 14-29.

Prayer: The Lord's Prayer, followed by thanksgiving and petitions for gracious help to hail Jesus as the King of our life.

Hymn 130: "Friend of Sinners! Lord of Glory!"

Topic: "Jesus's Kingship." (Reading of Luke xix. 29-39.)

[Develop the topic in an address or in three addresses, each of five minutes' length, on the following subtopics: (1) "Jesus the King because the Righteous Ruler." (2) "The King Who Appeals to All Men by the Power and Beauty of His Life." (3) "The King Who Has Power to Help and Save to the Uttermost of Human Need."]

Prayer that the Lordship of Christ in our life may be complete.

A question: Is my profession mere lip homage, or does Christ indeed rule my thoughts, affections, and purposes? [Let every one present answer this question either silently or by open confession.]

Hymn 420: "True-Hearted, Whole-Hearted, Faithful and Loyal."

Benediction (may be sung to 748 in the Hymnal).

MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK—A DAY OF AUTHORITY.

Opening. Let the leader open the service after singing or an organ piece, if preferred, by reading or reciting Isaiah xlii. 1-4.

*The numbers refer to the Methodist Hymnal. Alternative selections from "Songs of Praise and Service" are 148, 147, 66, 80, 9, 59, and 71.

Hymn 290: "How Sweetly Flowed the Gospel's Sound!"

Responsive reading: Psalm lxxv.

Prayer: The Lord's Prayer, followed by thanksgiving and petition for grace to heed, understand, and obey the teachings of Jesus.

Hymn 139: "Strong Son of God, Immortal Love."

Topic: "The Words of Jesus the Final Authority in Our Life." (Reading of Matt. vii. 28, 29; Luke xix. 47, 48; xxi. 37, 38.)

[Develop the topic in an address or, after a short introduction by the leader, in three addresses, each of five minutes' length, on the following subtopics: (1) "Christ Claims for His Words Final Authority: They Are Weightier than the Law; They Are More Lasting than Heaven and Earth." (2) "Our Conscience Answers to the Authority of His Teaching." (3) "What Is the First Thing to Do in Conforming Our Life to Jesus's Teaching?"]

Prayer that we may so examine ourselves as to test our life by Jesus's words.

A question: To what extent do I appeal to the words of Jesus for the ordering of my life and the settlement of every question of right and wrong? What experience have I had or what examples have I known that confirm the Bible teaching that this is the way of duty and truth? [Let every one present answer the question by open confession or at least silently as to God.]

Hymn 325: "Break Thou the Bread of Life."

Benediction (may be sung to 748 in the Hymnal).

TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK—A DAY OF CONFLICT.

Opening. Let the leader, after an opening song, continue the meeting by reading Hebrews xii. 3-6

Hymn 138: "Christ's Life Our Code."

Responsive reading: Psalm xi.

Prayer: The Lord's Prayer, followed by thanksgiving and petition for strength to adhere to Christ through days of trial and conflict.

Hymn 175: "Golden Harps Are Sounding."

Topic: "Christ Will Come Again in Power and Glory: Shall I Be Ready for the Day of His Appearing?" (Matt. xxv. 14-25.)

[Develop the topic by a short address in which the leader draws attention to the larger part in the later teaching of Jesus occupied by the promise of his coming again, already hinted at in John i. 51. Then let these subtopics be presented in five-minute addresses: (1) "What Has Our Lord Intrusted to the Church and to Each of Us against the Day of His Coming?" (2) "What Is Implied in Watching?" (3) "Is the Delay of His Return to Be Made an Excuse for Delay in Making Ready?"]

Prayer that we may be watchful, that we may so live as to be ready at any hour for the presence of the Lord.

A test: Should I rejoice if to-day my Lord were to come again to the earth? [Let each examine his own heart and answer the question in silence on his knees. Perhaps public profession here would not be so profitable as heart-searching.]

Hymn 170: "He Is Gone; a Cloud of Light." (Tune: "Spanish Hymn," page 352, or "Hendon," page 357.)

Benediction (may be sung to 748 in the Hymnal).

WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK—A DAY OF REST AND TESTING.

Opening: John vi. 63-65.

Hymn 143: "In the Cross of Christ i Glory."

Responsive reading: Psalm lv. 1-16.

Prayer: 'The Lord's Prayer, followed by petition that we may have faith and fidelity, not being repelled by the cross.

Hymn 144: "Never Farther than Thy Cross."

Topic: "The Test of the Cross—Juda's Awful Failure; My Testing." (Luke xxii. 1-6.)

[Let the leader's address bring out the historical setting. Jesus remained in retirement this day, not going as before to the city to teach in the temple. His public ministry was finished. He spent the day in retirement with his disciples at Bethany. A veil is drawn over the sacred interviews of that day, but in the city at the same time an awful tragedy was enacted. Judas, leaving the group at Bethany, went into the city and bargained for the betrayal of his Lord. Was it because there was now no possible doubt that the cross was Jesus's doom? (Matt. xxvi. 1-4.) Probably so. Probably it was the test of the cross that Judas could not stand. Let another short address bring out the thought of our own testing. Do we evade the cross and turn back to the world, or do we cleave to our Lord in the hour of trial?]

Prayer that we may bear our cross with our Lord and stand the test of days of retirement and inaction as well as those of strenuous endeavor.

Questions: Do I bear the cross? What does the cross mean to me? If I am not bearing the cross in fellowship with Jesus's self-renouncing life, have I any right to count myself among his disciples?

Hymn 433: "'Take Up Thy Cross,' the Saviour Said."
Benediction.

THURSDAY OF HOLY WEEK—A DAY OF FINAL BLESSING.

Opening: Hebrews v. 6-10.

Hymn 147: "'Tis Midnight, and on Olive's Brow."

Responsive reading: Psalm xl. 6-17.

Prayer: Following the Lord's Prayer, petition that we may know Christ in the fellowship of his sufferings.

Hymn 500: "By Thine Hour of Dire Despair" (v. 4).

Topic: "The Demands of Christ's Fellowship—Could Ye Not Watch with Me One Hour?" (Luke xxii. 39-46.)

[Let the leader's address develop the thought that Jesus fortified himself by prayer, and that the ability of his disciples to endure depends upon their fellowship with Jesus in his prayer life. It would be profitable further to study the prayer life of Jesus, referring to the following passages: Luke iii. 2; Mark i. 35; Luke vi. 12; Matthew xiv. 23; Mark ix. 29. Prayer was the only means by which Jesus's disciples could have entered into a deeper sympathy with their Lord in the mystery of his suffering in Gethsemane.]

Prayer for grace to continue in prayer.

Questions: What does prayer mean to me? Tested by my prayer habits, what is the character of my discipleship?

Hymn 404: "Christian, Seek Not Yet Repose."

Benediction.

FRIDAY OF HOLY WEEK—THE DAY OF SUFFERING.

Opening: Isaiah liii. 4-6.

Hymn 145: "Lord Jesus, When We Stand Afar."

Responsive reading: Psalm xxii. 1-11.

Prayer: The Lord's Prayer, followed by petition that we may experience the full saving power of the cross.

Hymn 357: "Forever Here My Rest Shall Be."

Topic: "Delivered for Our Offenses: Am I Crucified with Christ?" (John xix. 10-22; Matt. xxvi. 27, 28; xx. 27, 28.)

[The leader's address should show that the death of Christ was interpreted by him as well as by his apostles. The preceding passover and the discourse at the table interpret the cross. The cross is not for our analysis but our faith. Another short address on Galatians ii. 20 should earnestly enforce the necessity of our having a mystical experience that corresponds with the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.]

Prayer that we may die unto sin and live unto God.

Questions: What does the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ mean to me? Is there anything in my life that answers to St. Paul's experience, "I am crucified with Christ?" The answers to these questions must be made with most thorough sincerity. Consecration to the utmost was Christ's law. May we not wholly consecrate ourselves to-day?

Hymn 374: "Loving Jesus, Gentle Lamb." Or 282: "O Jesus, Thou Art Standing."

Benediction: The God of peace himself sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit, soul, and body be preserved entire, without blame, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ! Amen.

SATURDAY OF HOLY WEEK.

(Matt. xxvii. 62-66.)

Purposely no program is given for Saturday, as service is not usually held on that day. Let it be a day of preparation for results at our Decision Day service Easter evening.

EASTER SUNDAY—DECISION DAY.

[Before announcing the hymn, let the leader repeat these mottoes:]

"Christ being raised from the dead, dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him"

"Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord."

"O risen Christ! O Easter-flower!
How dear thy grace has grown!
From East to West, with loving power,
Make all the world thine own."

Hymn 157: "The Lord Is Risen Indeed."

Responsive reading: Psalm cxi. (Gloria.)

Prayer: The Lord's Prayer, said by all in concert, followed by the collect:†

"Almighty and ever-living God, who by thy Holy Spirit didst raise from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, and declare him to be thy Son with power, we beseech thee so to work in us by the same Spirit, according to the working of thy wondrous power, that we, having died to sin, may live unto thee, through Christ our Lord. Amen."

Hymn 156: "Christ the Lord Is Risen To-Day." To be sung as an anthem by the League choir.

Topic: "The Risen Christ with Us: How May We Secure His Presence?"

[Let the leader introduce the subject with a short address based upon Luke xxiv. 25-35, stressing especially the topic, "What Sort of Invitation to 'Abide with Us' Will the Lord Accept?"]

Hymn 50: "Abide with Me" (first and third stanzas).

Address: "Have We the Peace That the Presence of the Risen Christ Imparts?" (Based upon John xx. 19-23. Five minutes in length.)

Hymn 528: "Peace, Perfect Peace."

Address: "To What Personal Service Does the Risen

Christ Call Us?" (Based upon Matthew xxviii. 19, 20. Five minutes in length.)

Hymn 545: "Jesus Calls Us-O'er the Tumult."

Address: "The Conditions of Our Continued Fellowship with the Risen Christ." (Based upon Colossians iii. 1-3. Five minutes in length.)

Hymn 370: "I Know That My Redeemer Lives" (first and third stanzas).

Prayer. [Three short prayers, by leaders previously appointed, for the gift of eternal life, for its sustenance, for its enlargement.]

Decision. [This is the climax of our Week of Prayer. Let this part be committed to the pastor for an earnest exhortation to decision (1) by all Christians to renew their covenant with our risen Lord, especially emphasizing the world-wide comradeship of the young people; (2) by any who may be hesitating to commit themselves now openly to definite service; (3) by any whose lives are not consistent now to return to him who "will heal their backslidings;" (4) by the unconverted now to commit themselves irrevocably to Christ. Ask an open expression by word or sign from every one.]

Prayer that God will accept us and our offering and seal us to himself.

Hymn 350: "O Jesus, I Have Promised."

Benediction: Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

[This program for Fellowship Week may be had in pamphlet form of Smith & Lamar, Nashville, Tenn.]

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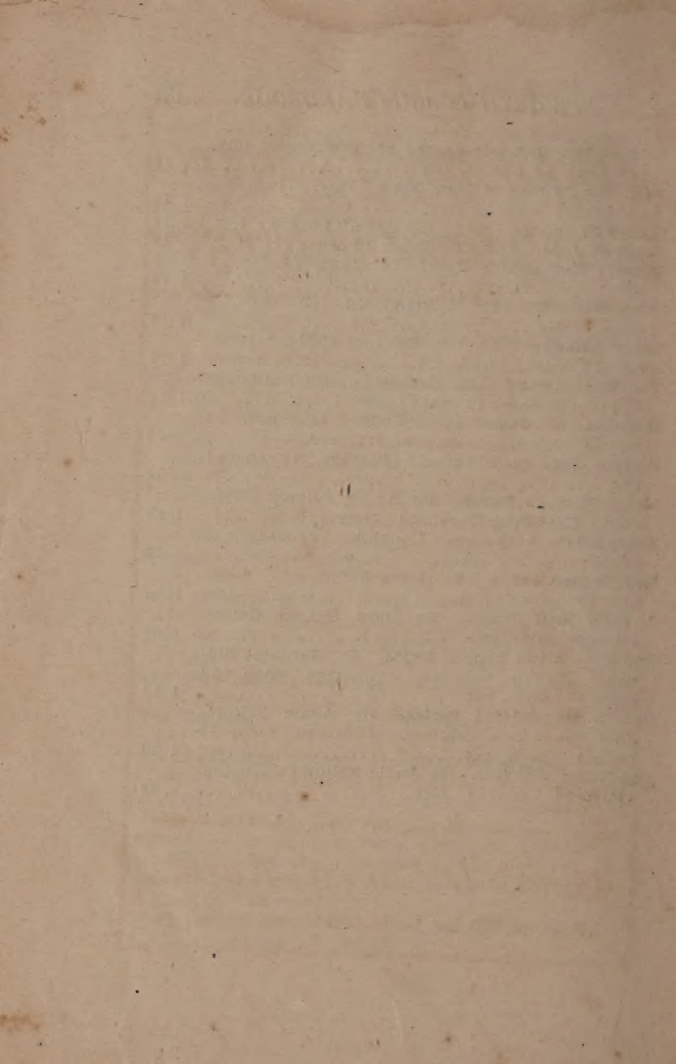
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